



Veterans Day

Quilts made to recognize service, two locals go national, and lots more. Read our salute to Vets.



State Champs!

Two girls' teams won titles this past weekend. Read about how they did it in Sports, Page 1B.



Get movin'

The Activity Guide inside gives ideas for how you and your kids can get fit & have fun this winter.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Ambulance services see some funds halt

Medicare add-ons stop amid shutdown

By MARIN HOWELL
BRISTOL — Ambulance services across the country are operating with less revenue than usual, as Medicare ambulance add-on payments that support those operations ended in September and remain halted amid the government shutdown.

New president asks: What is Middlebury College for?

By MARIN HOWELL
MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury College President Ian B. Baucom was officially installed to his post this past Sunday in a ceremony that culminated a weekend of events gathering community members together and considering the question, 'What is Middlebury for?'



Go Go Go!
THE COMMODORE FANS turned out in force to support the Vergennes Union High School girls at Saturday's D-III soccer final at Rutland High School on Saturday. See the game roundup and more photos on Page 1B.

Independent photo/Steve James

Student's death shines light on struggling youth

Trans community, counselors react

By JOHN FLOWERS
MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury College senior Lia Smith was memorialized on Sunday, Nov. 2, in Atherton College — 3,000 miles away from the spot her body had been found 10 days earlier in a lonely Cornwall field.

"Since we started MiddPride, we have seen fewer instances of self-harm among our teens. We've seen more joy, more authenticity, and more confidence."

— Lindsey Fuentes-George

Authorities found Smith's remains near The Knoll, the

college's organic garden, on the afternoon of Thursday, Oct. 23. She had been missing for six days, during which searchers, with the aid of drones, telecommunications technology and police dogs, scoured the campus for her.

Mental health support available for students

By MARIN HOWELL
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College community continues to mourn the death of Lia Smith, a senior at the college who was confirmed to have died by suicide last month after being reported missing from campus.

are aware of and have access to supports on and off campus. The *Independent* reached out to officials at the Middlebury College Center for Health and Wellness to learn more about the mental health supports available to students.



By the way
Due to an ongoing staff shortage and the current, unanticipated absence of two fulltime staff members, the Marion's Place retail store at Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (282 Boardman St. in Middlebury) is unable to accept donated goods this week.

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Locals rally to fill SNAP gap

Schools & nonprofits ramp up food offerings

By JOHN FLOWERS
ADDISON COUNTY — Area schools and nonprofits were working overtime this week to gather extra food for low-income families who faced suspension of their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits due to the federal government shutdown.

for fiscal year 2024 was \$184.48 per month, or \$6.06 per person per day, an amount the USDA typically uploads monthly onto EBT cards for qualifying recipients to spend on food.



Growers help Jamaican workers hit by hurricane

By IAN CURRY
SHOREHAM — Vermonters might feel far removed from the trail of destruction that Hurricane Melissa left in the Caribbean last week, but for Champlain Orchards in Shoreham, the crisis hit a lot closer to home.



LOCAL APPLE ORCHARDISTS are gathering money and supplies to help the seasonal pickers, like Akeem Fearon (shown here at Sunrise Orchards in 2023), who have returned to their homes in hurricane-ravaged Jamaica.

Bridport, Shoreham schools could merge

By JOHN FLOWERS

BRIDPORT — The Addison Central School District isn't waiting for state mandates from Act 73, the state's public education reform law whose impacts will begin to be felt in 2027. The Middlebury-area district is now actively confronting its declining student numbers and is considering some big changes on its own.

In addition to beginning a process that could lead to the formal closure of Ripton Elementary School, the ACSD board on Nov. 24 is tentatively scheduled to vote on a proposal to serve the K-5 populations of both Bridport and Shoreham at Bridport Central School (BCS), starting in the fall of 2026.

As part of that plan, Shoreham Elementary School would become a district pre-kindergarten hub, absorbing a PreK classroom that currently exists at BCS, and adding a second preschool classroom.

"Making sure we're investing as needed in the success of our students, I believe is a priority of the board," ACSD Superintendent Wendy Baker said during a recent interview. "We're focused on strong classrooms across the district... We're focused on doing that efficiently, where we can, which I think is built into this proposal."

Talk of a possible Bridport/Shoreham K-5 student merger began last spring, when enrollment forecasts suggested neither Bridport nor Shoreham would have enough student numbers to offer single-grade elementary classes next year. The ACSD has a policy requiring a minimum of 10 students per class, across two grades.

So the question for district leaders was to prep for either all multi-grade classrooms (for the first time) in both BCS and Shoreham Elementary, or look for creative ways to offer single-grade instruction. In investigating the latter route, district officials formed

a "Bridport & Shoreham Grade Configuration Working Group."

There are currently 45 kindergarten thorough 5th grade students at BCS and 51 at Shoreham Elementary.

The working group — which included school officials and parents from both communities — met through the summer and into the fall, crunching numbers and seeking input from residents at three public gatherings (the last one, on Oct. 28, was virtual). The district recently unveiled a report explaining the logistics and expenses of running a joint K-5 school at BCS and a PreK hub at Shoreham Elementary.

The driving force behind any changes, Baker stressed, will be about improving student outcomes for children at both schools. And ensuring single-grade K-5 classes for kids in both towns could be an important step in that direction, ACSD officials believe.

Baker pointed to recent academic performance data showing ample room for scholastic improvement.

Last year, 82% of Bridport K-5 students and 64% of Shoreham students weren't meeting state standards in English Language Arts. This year (thus far), 64% of Bridport students and 59% of Shoreham children still aren't meeting those standards, according to ACSD data.

Student performance is also lagging in math. Around 84% of BCS students and 75% of Shoreham Elementary students currently aren't meeting state standards in that subject, according to district data.

Community interest in single-grade classrooms has prompted ACSD officials to design facilities, transportation, staffing and programming that could serve a combined Bridport/Shoreham K-5 school concept at Bridport Central, along with a preschool offering at Shoreham Elementary.

CHOSING BRIDPORT

Planners determined BCS to be the best option of a joint K-5 school because it has 18% more space than Shoreham; has more "ease of reconfiguration"; and can accommodate "one room per grade, art & music, and dedicated spaces for other learning, services, and staff," according to the working group's report.

District officials said BCS would need some "minor upgrades" (estimated at 50,000 to \$100,000) to put the plan into motion, including student cubbies in classrooms, dividers in student services for privacy and focus, blacktop and playground equipment, and parking lot improvements to help with increased traffic.

Planners are proposing additional K-5 staffing to "accelerate and support greater student success in math and literacy through single-grade classrooms," according to the working group's report. A tentative staffing list reflects 22.3 full-time-equivalent workers to serve the combined Bridport/Shoreham K-5 school, including six single-grade educators, 1.5 principal, an administrative assistant, two special educators, two math instructional specialists, two paraeducators, a Counseling Services of Addison County clinician and a librarian.

Planners are still working on a busing plan for the pivot to a merged school.

Projected cost: Around \$2.25 million annually, which is roughly 7% (\$160,000) less than the current two-school model, according to the working group's report.

The new preschool at Shoreham Elementary would serve 30 children (two classes of 15 children) beginning in the fall of 2026, following around \$40,000 in building fit-up costs. District officials stressed a third classroom could be added, as Shoreham can be licensed for up to three preschool classrooms.

(See Merger, Page 3A)



After dinner dignity

THIS BALD EAGLE sits placidly in a tree beside Downingsville Road in Lincoln Tuesday after feasting on deer parts dumped over a bank.

Photo by Dale Cockrell

Guard against winter illness

With winter approaching, Vermont health officials are encouraging everyone to take steps to protect themselves, their families and their communities from flu, COVID-19 and RSV — including getting vaccinated.

"Vaccination helps keep our communities strong," said Vermont Health Commissioner Rick Hildebrandt, MD. "By staying up to date on recommended vaccines, we not only reduce our

own risk of severe illness, but we also help protect those around us."

This season's flu and COVID-19 vaccines are updated to target the most recent strains of the viruses and are recommended for everyone age six months and older. Immunizations for RSV are also widely available for pregnant people, infants and seniors.

(See Illness, Page 7A)

ACSD sets hearings on Ripton School closure

By JOHN FLOWERS

RIPTON — The Addison Central School District board has scheduled three public hearings in advance of its scheduled Nov. 24 vote on whether to initiate a formal closing process for Ripton Elementary School (RES). That process could lead to a districtwide vote on closure and pave the way for the RES property to be sold back to the town of Ripton.

The *Independent* on Oct. 30 mistakenly reported that the three public hearings had to be held prior to a districtwide referendum on closure of RES. In fact, the district charter calls for those hearings to be held before

the ACSD board's upcoming Nov. 24 vote on the question.

In line with that timetable, the RES closure hearings have been set for:

- Monday, Nov. 10, from 5-6 p.m. at the Middlebury Union High School library.
- Thursday, Nov. 13, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Ripton Elementary School.
- Wednesday, Nov. 19, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at MUHS.

ACSD board members will consider feedback from those public meetings when they convene on Nov. 24 to vote on whether to proceed with closure of RES, which shuttered to its K-5 classes this fall due to declining enrollment. Ripton K-5 children now attend the Salisbury Community School.

The ACSD acquired RES from the town of Ripton in 2016 for \$1. While RES is no longer used as a school, the ACSD still owns it and is responsible for its upkeep and maintenance.

It will take a supermajority vote of the ACSD board — at least 10 of its 13 members — on Nov.

24 for the RES closure process to advance to a districtwide referendum.

Such a referendum could be scheduled for a special election or for Town Meeting Day in March. The closure question would be fielded by voters in the district's member towns of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

The ballots would be commingled, with the outcome determined by the majority vote.

"The board would likely hold information sessions prior to the (districtwide) vote, much like it does to educate voters on the budget," ACSD board Chair Barb Wilson said.

If the majority of district voters agree to close Ripton Elementary School, the ACSD would offer the school and property back to the town of Ripton for \$1. Wilson added the town of Ripton would likely seek approval from its own electorate before following through on such a transaction.

A consultant-led Ripton School working group recently

analyzed potential uses for the RES building. That group found support from Ripton residents for reacquiring the building and possibly using it as new town offices, a community center and/or a recreation space.

Past reporting by the *Independent* stated that Ripton, if it reacquired the RES building, would have to reimburse the district for improvements made to the structure while under ACSD ownership.

In fact, the ACSD charter states that Ripton would only bear such a liability if it "elects to sell the real property prior to five years of ownership."

If the closure effort advances past the ACSD board and districtwide votes, and Ripton decides it doesn't want to reacquire the building, the charter calls for the district to "sell the property, upon such terms and conditions as established by the ACSD board of directors."

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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Conference will explore past, future of climate efforts

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Members of the Middlebury College community have long spearheaded efforts to tackle the climate crisis.

Two decades ago, students and faculty planted the seeds for what would become the international environmental organization known as 350.org and the Sunday Night Environmental Group, a student organization that continues to push for climate and social justice on Middlebury's campus and beyond.

A three-day conference held at the college next week will honor those and other climate initiatives at Middlebury, reflecting on their strategies and successes while looking ahead to future climate action. The "What Works Now?" conference will take place Nov. 13-15 and feature a variety of events; most are open to the public.

"We see this conference as a really great opportunity to learn from the alumni that have done a lot of this climate organizing at Middlebury, have been in our shoes, and then also see what they've done post-graduation," said Ella Powers, a student and climate action fellow at the college who's helped organize the event. "It's kind of that mixture of learning from the past and then applying it to the future."

CLIMATE ACTION LEGACY

The event's name points back to a 2005 conference at the college called "What Works? New Strategies for a Melting Planet," which marked the culmination of a January-term class led by Jon Isham that year centered on "Building the New Climate Movement." The conference allowed participants to share and develop strategies for addressing climate change.

Isham's course also led to the

creation of what is now known as the Sunday Night Environmental Group, or SNEG.

"Students (in Isham's course) were like, 'Hey, we should invite more people that aren't in the class but are interested in these social justice issues and climate organizing as well,' and so they started meeting in the Château basement on Sunday nights to just discuss these things, and it kind of took off from there," Powers said. "It's always been this nonhierarchical group where anyone was able to put in whatever leadership they wanted."

Over the years SNEG participants have pushed the college to divest its \$1.6 billion endowment from fossil fuel investments and to stop doing business with JP Morgan Chase Bank due to the financial institution's contributions to fossil fuel projects, along with other initiatives.

Today, the group sees about 30-35 students turn out for its weekly meetings. Recent SNEG efforts include helping organize the No Kings event in Middlebury last month and exploring thermal energy networks.

"Obviously, the issues are a little bit different, but the ethos of SNEG is still there," Powers explained. "We're still nonhierarchical, anyone can put in what effort or involvement they would like. We have projects that span the gamut."

Early members of SNEG later teamed up with Bill McKibben, environmentalist and Middlebury College Schumann Distinguished Scholar, to form 350.org. The organization pushes for a transition away from fossil fuels and toward just, accessible renewable energy.

Some of those former students will attend next week's conference. A keynote event at Wilson Hall on Nov. 14 will feature 350.org co-founder and Middlebury College alum Jamie Henn in conversation with Middlebury College President Ian Baucom.

Powers said organizers have heard from several other alumni who plan to attend and aim to spread the word about the conference across the college and broader community.

"We're hopeful to have a good mixture of all different kinds of people," Powers said.

Aside from a SNEG Welcome Meeting on the evening of Nov. 13, all of the conference events will be open to the public. Powers noted that some of the events will also be recorded.

The three-day conference will feature several events, from Friday's keynote to a handful of breakout sessions on "Leadership past, present and future" in different areas. The event offers an opportunity to commemorate climate initiatives born out of the college community, such as the Climate Action Program and the 20th anniversary of SNEG and the 2005 conference.

"People often are so rushed with the work at hand that being able to take a step back and take stock of what has really come out of this place and also what we can learn from each other and how we connect those dots is something that we don't get to do often enough," said Minna Brown, Middlebury College Climate Action Program Director and alum.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Brown noted the value in coming together to share ideas.

"This is absolutely coming at a time when programs are being slashed, and there's a lot of uncertainty," she said. "So, I think also the opportunity to be together to compare notes about exactly the framing of this conference, 'What works now? What does it look like for us to go back to the drawing board and see what we can learn from the past, but also what's really contextual for the current moment and where we emerge from here?' I think is going to be really important."

Powers is also looking forward to the chance to learn from one another.

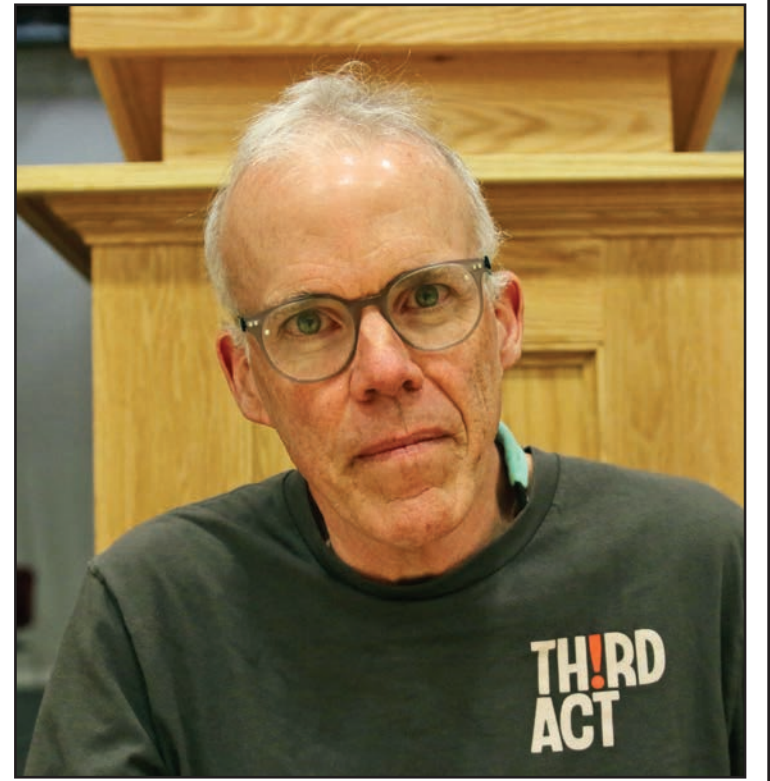
"One opportunity that the students have been especially excited for is...talking to alumni who have done climate organizing at Middlebury and then taken that work beyond because I think we're especially in a time where a lot of us have a lot of uncertainty around what we're going to be doing post-graduation, what some of our internships next summer are going to look like," Powers said.

Powers and Brown also pointed to opportunities to celebrate and build off of climate efforts like SNEG.

"This chance to ... take the 20th (anniversary) of SNEG as a convening power to really be able to explore not just what SNEG has done, but also the role that Middlebury has played and the things that our alumni have gone on to do in leadership positions all over the place, is really vital," Brown said.

Brown, one of SNEG's early members, acknowledged that the student-run group, like any organization, isn't always a home for everyone. She said Middlebury College community members aim to "continue to redefine what climate action looks like, what climate engagement looks like and who feels welcome in what spaces."

"We invite people who SNEG was not their organization when they were a student, or they're a community member and they just (See *Climate*, Page 6A)



BILL MCKIBBEN

McKibben to speak on new book, local activism

MIDDLEBURY — Noted author and activist Bill McKibben will speak on Wednesday, Nov. 12 about his new book and the power of local environmental activism. The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court, Middlebury.

This free public gathering supports Energy Navigators, a signature initiative of the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County (CEAC).

McKibben's new book, "Here Comes the Sun," is a call to harness the power of the sun

and rewrite our economic and political future. It tells the optimistic story of the sudden spike in power from the sun and wind—and the desperate fight of the fossil fuel industry and their enablers to hold the sun's power at bay.

CEAC's grassroots Energy Navigators provides free guidance to homeowners and renters in Addison County and Brandon who want to reduce their utility bills and lower their greenhouse gas emissions.

"I'm very happy to be able to speak in support of CEAC's (See *McKibben*, Page 7A)

CORRECTION: As one reader put it gently: Swing and a miss, Addison Independent. In a brief on the cover of last week's newspaper we tried to explain the change from Daylight Savings Time to Standard Time. We successfully predicted that the sun would rise one hour earlier on Sunday morning, but we whiffed when we suggested readers turn clocks *forward* one hour. Ooof! Of course our intelligent readers figured it out, but...really? Sorry about that.

Merger

(Continued from Page 2A)

And the district wouldn't have much trouble filling the Shoreham preschool slots. There are an estimated 34 PreK students living just in Shoreham and Bridport, according to ACSD officials. The Shoreham slots would be open to children from throughout the district's seven towns: Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

Middlebury's Mary Hogan Elementary (two classrooms) and Bridport Central (one classroom) have the only public school-based preschool programs in ACSD right now. Both are full, with waiting lists. And school-based PreK offerings are very desirable for some families, for both financial and academic reasons.

Under Vermont's universal PreK law, parents can receive \$4,000 per child in state funds to attend the private preschool of their choice. That amounts to around 10 hours of preschool instruction per week, with the family having to pick up the tuition balance.

If that child can secure a public school-based slot, the district received the \$4,000 and district taxpayers cover the balance of the preschool tuition for a 30-hour-a-week program.

SHOREHAM PRE-K

The new Shoreham Elementary preschool would offer five-day preschool programming, with meals prepared (and delivered) from BCS. Staffing would include one teacher and two paraprofessionals per classroom, with access to nursing through

BCS.

Organizers are projecting \$240,550 in new costs for the Shoreham preschool. All but \$20,550 of that expense would be offset by the \$160,000 savings from a combined K-5 school and an estimated \$60,000 in preschool tuition assistance from the state, according to district officials.

Baker doesn't see signs pointing to an enrollment spike that could suddenly require the district to need more K-5 school space.

"Much of (the enrollment across Addison County) depends on housing," she said, noting the dearth in housing options — particularly for young families. "At this point, we don't have any reason to think enrollment will rise substantially."

Still, ACSD will be vigilant. A major subdivision (Stonecrop Meadows) is taking shape in Middlebury, and communities

like Bridport (see related story) are looking at ways to boost their housing stock.

Baker noted Salisbury and Cornwall have single grade classrooms with no space within their buildings to grow. Middlebury's Mary Hogan Elementary enrollment could surge if more local subdivisions take shape.

"We want to make sure we're looking ahead to be able to have enough flexibility across the district to ensure all the kids have got a firm place in a strong classroom," Baker said.

To that end, ACSD is considering revisions to a policy that could pave the way for more intra-district school choice. If you reside in ACSD, check out the related survey at tinyurl.com/469w94az.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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Editorial

Will Tuesday's elections recast political landscape?

Since Trump's second term began this past January, every day has had its own "big" news. Day after day, week after week, Trump has bombarded Americans with unprecedented actions, unlawful power grabs, cuts to government agencies by Elon Musk's DOGE, extreme tariffs on allies and foes alike, support of dictators like Russia's Vladimir Putin, a temporary freeze on support for Ukraine, extreme cuts to renewable energy programs, cutting off America's leadership in soft-power, ceding America's competitiveness in renewable energy (and so much else) to China, refusing to fund SNAP benefits to 1 in 8 households in America who need food assistance, unleashing ICE to arrest and deport immigrants without due process, involving the National Guard in domestic matters against the wishes of states and cities, and the hundreds of other ill-conceived ideas that have collectively threatened the nation's democracy as well as its global economic and political leadership.

Add to that inflation has gone up, not down as he promised, and jobs are harder to secure. In short, voters' lives are worse, not better, under Trump.

Tuesday's elections demonstrated the disapproval of Trump expressed in numerous polls was not "fake news." Democrats won in election after election with higher-than-expected turnouts and by larger margins. It was a day packed with really big news.

In New York City, Zohran Mamdani, 34, won the race for mayor by a wide margin over Trump-backed and fellow billionaire Andrew Cuomo. Democrat Abigail Spanberger will be Virginia's first female governor, while Mikie Sherrill will be New Jersey's new Democratic governor, winning by a wide margin in a race that polls not long ago predicted would be down to the wire.

In California, Gov. Gavin Newsom won a big victory in that state's redistricting measure, which voters supported by a 2-1 margin.

In Maine, voters overwhelmingly rejected a measure by a Republican legislature that would have added voting restrictions (requiring a photo ID), while also approving a measure championed by Democrats that allows families the ability to confiscate a troubled relative's guns.

In the Virginia state legislature, House Democrats flipped 13 seats for their biggest majority in nearly 40 years.

In Pennsylvania, voters re-elected three Democratic justices to the state's supreme court for 10-year terms — a rebuke of the Republican Party's nationwide effort to defeat them.

Detroit elected its first female mayor, a Democrat, and the first new mayor in a dozen years, and, in an upset, Democrats ousted two incumbent Republican members of Georgia's utility board — a board that hasn't had a Democratic member since 2007.

As Gov. Newsom said after results of the election were clear, "What a night for the Democratic Party, a party that is in its ascendancy, a party that is on its toes, no longer on its heels."

YES, BUT...

Though the elections provided welcome relief and optimism for Democrats, warnings about reading too much into a few select races were everywhere.

A Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos opinion poll last week found 68% of Americans think the Democrat party is out of touch, a bit worse than the 63% who think the same of Trump.

In an analysis by David Smith of the London-based Guardian, he writes that "progressives and moderates were both given fodder to make a case that they have the antidote to Trumpism. The reality, of course, in a wildly diverse country of 50 states and 340 million people, is not one or the other, but all of the above..." The Democratic party is a glorious melee of different constituencies and viewpoints in contrast to the brittle monoculture of the Trump cult. (Italics added.) What unites it ahead of next year's midterms is a desire for fighters rather than folders and for a relentless focus on the affordability crisis even as the president flaunts power and wealth."

Smith asked New York congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez whether Mamdani or Spanberger was the future of the Democratic Party and she gave an apt answer: "At the end of the day I don't think our party needs to have one face. Our country does not have one face. It's about all of us as a team together, and we all understand the assignment. Our assignment everywhere is to send the strongest fighters for the working class wherever possible."

RURAL CONSERVATISM

In another apt analysis, *Washington Post* columnist Ishaan Tharoor rejects the Republican narrative that Mamdani's election accelerates a clash of civilizations — with Mamdani's socialistic ideas in urban America colliding with Trump's nationalistic fervor. Rather, Tharoor argues, "it's of competing visions of the world — one anchored in Trump's angry nationalist project and the other in Mamdani's global city..." Across the world, liberal mayors of major cities find themselves at odds with the nationalist politics of their hinterlands."

The point to ponder is why Trump's angry and demeaning style of politics appeals to so many in the nation's heartland and elsewhere. Certainly, Trump's style appeals to those who feel disenfranchised — white males without higher education, in particular, are upset with those with more education, immigrants taking jobs, women in the workplace, and more. But it's also key to understand they wanted to believe Trump's promises to make things better.

Trump promised, as economist Paul Krugman said, "to not just reduce inflation but to bring prices way back down. And many believed him..." Of course, Trump didn't have a plan. Instead, he imposed tariffs and began deporting immigrant workers, both of which raised prices... Pretty clearly, many Americans now believe they were lied to. My guess is that this is especially true for Hispanic voters, who swung to Trump believing he would deliver prosperity and are swinging back hard to Democrats now that he hasn't."

In the end, Trump's assault on the truth, rejection of science, objection to limits of presidential power, his willingness to prosecute anyone who stands in his way and silence others, and his threats to our democracy may have already tested the patience, and credulity, of too many Americans. And because the GOP has become a party beholden to Trump, its future is wound tightly to him.

It's too early to discount Trump's potential resurgence, as he has defied the odds before, but if truth prevails and voters tire of Trump's lies, the question Republicans are surely asking after Tuesday's election is how far will the party fall with him?

Angelo Lynn



Frozen in time

MOUNT ABRAHAM UNION High School Junior Baxter Montgomery and a Milton player both wait for the soccer ball to reach them during this past Friday's state championship final at Burlington High School. See story on Page 1B.

Independent photo/Steve James

Prepping for an emptier nest

In August, we drove to Boston, watched as our older child walked through security, and waved goodbye. Next stop: Japan, where he'll spend the better part of the next two years.

I had no idea how wrenching that would feel.

You always know that kids aren't going to be with you forever. Count on it, actually, in those endless days when you never get enough sleep and can't walk across the floor without stepping on a marble or tripping over a train set. Daydream about it when you have no babysitters and you haven't had an uninterrupted conversation with your partner for weeks. You certainly don't want kids to live in your house forever, leaving clothes everywhere and filling up the sink and counters with dirty dishes.

And I didn't think that I'd built my identity around mine. If you asked me what I do, I wouldn't say "mother" first. Even after 18 years, I'm still kind of amazed it applies to me, frankly.

And yet, something happened in those early days when I still felt like figuring out a car seat must take an engineering degree, when I couldn't believe how a creature the length of my forearm could have commandeered the house with all his gear: changing table and stacks of diapers, pillows and swings and play pads and toys. Somewhere in the calculations of how to make it to Montpelier without the baby screaming for a solid hour, or how much stuff I'd have to pack just to visit the grocery store, or how to tuck a workday around the day care schedule, I stopped being solely myself and became something else: a person with a child attached

to every decision. In other words, a mother.

By the time we were in the middle of college visits and SATs, the vice grip had loosened. My son could drive himself to soccer practice while I went off to a meeting, give his sister a ride if I was running late. He figured out plenty of stuff without me. I guess I thought his leaving would be just one more incremental step away.

It's not. Even while living his own life, he was here. Here to talk to, here to tease, here to join me in laughing

at the cat or marveling at the Milky Way spread across the sky when we could find a spot free of flood lights and city glow. Losing him feels like a breakup — the easy kind, where you both agree it's for the best, no hard feelings or harsh words — but even the easy kind can gut you.

I miss him, but it's not just that.

I'm also losing a bit of myself, the me I was when I followed him around on golden summer mornings as he "drove" the lawn tractor or ran through the sprinkler. The me I was 18 years ago, and 12 years ago, and even last year.

I'm still a mother, of course. Even a mother with a child still at home. But I can see the writing on the wall. Just as leaves turn and drop, grasses crisp and gardens die back, I can feel the season turning in my own life. In three years, if all goes well, my daughter will be gone, too. And a house that's been full for two decades will suddenly feel too big again, too quiet.

Americans aren't great at honoring pivot points, benchmarks, rites of passage. We like to trivialize them (See *Ways of Seeing*, Page 5A)

Ways of Seeing

By Erin Ruble



Grieve for U.S, then tell new story

On the afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 2, my wife Rita and I drove from our home in Bristol to Burlington in order to attend a performance of Mozart's Requiem at the College Street Congregational Church. We had learned about this Vermont Choral Union concert from Father Stephen Marchand, the priest at St. Ambrose, Rita's church, who is also a member of that choir's tenor section. Father Marchand had mentioned to us that in preparation for the concert the choir's masterful director, Eric Milnes, emphasized that every syllable of the libretto was also part of a musical phrase and needed to be fully sung. Indeed, the Latin text snapped, soared, and reverberated with a dramatic intensity we'd never heard before.

The battered wooden pews in this beautiful stone church were filled for the concert, and at its conclusion the audience stood and applauded for a very long time, in gratitude for the powerful experience we'd shared.

My guess is that the hundreds of us who just kept on clapping that afternoon included observant Catholics, Jews, Protestants, Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus, as well as adherents of other traditions and plenty of folks who regularly checked "None" on surveys of their religious affiliation. I'm certain our audience also included people with widely differing political views. But there we all were together, deeply stirred by this sublime

piece of music and reluctant to put our coats back on and head off in our habitual directions.

Grief is the context for a requiem mass, consolation and hope its goal. Two lines are repeated in both the first movement of Mozart's composition and its conclusion: *Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis.* "Grant them eternal rest, O Lord: and let everlasting light shine on them." I

felt struck by the concert's resonance with the present moment of fear and grief in our country — one in which hope can seem hard to conceive. An NPR/PBS News/Marist poll of this past June reported that 76% of respondents — including significant majorities among Democrats, undecided voters and Republicans alike — agreed "there is a serious threat to the future of our democracy." Rita and I are politically engaged, as voters, demonstrators, letter-writers, and check-writers, but we also acknowledge that our own dread about the direction of our beloved country is paralleled by equal fearfulness among patriotic fellow citizens holding views quite different from ours.

The severe polarization of the electorate today is often described in terms of angry opposition. Yet within the heat of this anger flickers a pervasive fear about what comes next, accompanied by feelings of regret about the estrangement too often weakening our sense of (See *Elder*, Page 5A)



Visions of Renewal

By John Elder

Letters to the Editor

Don't overpay for recycling

I've learned a couple interesting things on Saturday trips to take my trash and recycling to a local drop-off center. First, WDEV's "Music to Go to the Dump By" continues to play wonderfully corny music.

Second, at least two of our local hauling companies have been improperly charging residents for recycling, even when residents pay a per-bag charge for their trash.

As the friendly folks at the Addison County Solid Waste District have recently confirmed, this practice is prohibited by Vermont's recycling law. The state decided years ago to incentivize recycling by prohibiting haulers from charging additionally for accepting recycling materials, when a resident pays for trash.

This policy exists because recycling keeps materials out of the waste stream, takes a literal load off Vermont's one remaining landfill, and is far more environmentally beneficial.

So if a hauling company tries to charge you for dropping off recycling when you're already paying for trash drop-off, it might be a good idea to remind them about this state policy — and in the process also save yourself a few bucks.

Greg Dennis Cornwall

Trump making fables reality

As Gilda Radner often said, "It's always something."

The Chief Executive Commander King has said we should rely on common sense science for public health. Maybe the Earth is actually flat. Common sense science. "And so it goes..." the way Russia would like it to go. In turn, 30% of our scientific talent is deporting itself in self-defense.

At the same time, the unthinkable is happening. A loose cannon will load a nuke into the breech. The Nevada Test Site might be ground zero for the first time in 33 years. Back in the bomb business... Think about that and who gets to play with annihilation.

The Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale was first published in 1837. "The Emperor's New Clothes" exposed the Emperor, who was totally unaware of what he wasn't wearing. Amazing how timeless an old Danish story can be.

Alec Lyall Middlebury

Protesting in peace laudable

Kat Abughazaleh has been indicted. News footage shows her and others physically blocking a federal vehicle, pushing and pounding on its hood. It seems clear what happened — yet I'm conflicted.

I like Kat. I've followed her campaign for representative in Chicago. She shows a courage and commitment to the American experiment that many leaders do not, pledging, as our founders did, "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." She knows she might be arrested — just as our own U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. was in Chicago in 1963, standing against segregation and racial injustice.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "One who breaks an unjust law must do so openly, lovingly and with a willingness to accept the penalty." When Representative Al Green was censured for interrupting a presidential address, he said, "On some questions of conscience... you have to be willing to suffer the consequences... I would do it again."

ICE protests sit on the fault line between two American instincts: the revolutionary one that resists tyranny and the Constitutional one that insists on rule of law. We can honor both by remaining peaceful and refusing to give those in power an excuse for violence. But we can't be silent either. As John Lewis urged, we must sometimes (See *Diegel*, Page 5A)

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Building instead of blocking

State slowly pivoting to a more pro-housing culture

By MIRO WEINBERGER

Last spring, I wrote that the national discussion sparked by “Abundance,” the new book by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson, was “100% about us.” About Vermont, our housing shortage, and our struggle to move from a culture of blocking to a culture of building.

Just months later, that conversation came to Vermont itself. More than 400 business leaders, policymakers, high school students and legislators gathered in late October to hear Derek Thompson, one of “Abundance’s” co-authors, speak at the Vermont Business Roundtable’s breakfast.

His message was both clear and urgent: America’s affordability crisis is fundamentally a housing crisis, driven by the legal and regulatory barriers that prevent us from building enough homes where people want and need to live.

Derek showed how housing costs rise precisely when young people are trying to start families and businesses, crowding out savings, innovation and opportunity. His argument resonates deeply with our experience in Vermont, where outdated zoning, redundant permitting systems and slow government processes have left too many people unable to find a decent, affordable place to live. When Derek said, “If you want abundance, you have to build,” it felt like he was speaking directly to Vermonters.

The fact that this national discussion is happening here, not just in Washington, D.C. or California, is a sign of real

momentum. It means Vermont is being recognized as part of the solution, not just a symptom of the national problem. The “Abundance” agenda is taking root in our state.

At Let’s Build Homes, we see this moment as both validation and motivation. Our mission to create a Vermont of abundant housing for households of all income levels where communities thrive in harmony with our working lands, aligns perfectly with the principles of Abundance. The hundreds of leaders who joined last week’s event are proof that the will to change is growing.

America’s problem isn’t a lack of ideas; it’s a lack of permission. We’ve built political systems that make it far easier to stop something than to start it. Vermont has lived that truth for decades.

We’ve already seen meaningful progress. The Legislature has begun to modernize Act 250 and last year passed a bill to make it easier to finance the water, sewer and road infrastructure that new homes depend on. As a result of both local initiative and the Legislature’s Home Act, towns across the state are rethinking zoning to allow more housing where it’s needed most. These are exactly the kinds of steps that Abundance calls for: pragmatic, pro-building reforms that make growth possible without compromising our working lands.

Still, the work is far from done. Even as we make progress, too many families remain priced out of the communities they grew up in. Too many workers and young people still can’t find a home close to their job. Too many projects that meet our shared goals get stuck in unnecessary layers of process. The next phase of this effort must be even more ambitious. We must ensure that when a

community has planned for housing in the right places, those homes can actually get built.

As Derek reminded us, America’s problem isn’t a lack of ideas, it’s a lack of permission. We’ve built political systems that make it far easier to stop something than to start it. Vermont has lived that truth for decades. But the energy in that room told me that this is changing. We are choosing a new path. A path that recognizes that a vibrant, sustainable Vermont requires more homes, more opportunity and more people who can afford to live and work here. A path where communities grow and thrive in harmony with our working landscape.

The politics of abundance means having the courage to say yes. Yes, to smart growth, yes to new homes in the right places, yes to a future where young families and working Vermonters can thrive.

Let’s Build Homes is proud to help lead this transition. We’re building a movement that unites business and institution leaders, local officials, housing advocates and working Vermonters around one shared vision: a state that builds for its future rather than fears it. Derek Thompson’s visit was more than a keynote. It was a milestone: a sign that Vermont’s effort to move from scarcity to abundance is being noticed, supported, and strengthened by a growing national movement.

Now it’s up to us to keep building: literally and figuratively. The opportunity before us is enormous, and so is the responsibility. We’ve taken important steps, but much more lies ahead if we want to make building homes in the right places faster, simpler, and fairer for everyone. Let’s seize this moment to ensure that every Vermonter, present and future, can find a place to call home.

Letters to the Editor

Novembering Democracy

Mickey’s Cub Cadet is wedged in the mud next to his pond. His Carhart jacket strewn

on the mower’s seat. Looking as if he was using his machine as a brush hog

and not what it was meant for. The grass and dandelions. A few Indian paintbrushes

taking over, adorning a lawn. Mickey’s nowhere to be seen. Leaving me to guess, he’s inside.

Trying to call me. To bring my shoulders and chains over to his yard. To see

if there’s any chance in the world, at our age, we can move the earth under the wheels. Get some

purchase on life. Before it snows again. For the first time.

Neither of us having to pretend this job’s beyond us. We better leave things just

as they are. Letting the ground freeze. The zero turn arms stay where they are. Like branches.

Like arrows. Pointing in the direction of spring. The bass and frogs arising. As they’re made to.

Working together. They can move anything. This morning. The day after the election. Meaning this is

November. It isn’t too late for fall’s last mowing. For enough votes to be cast

and counted. For the rear wheels to budge. To gain their traction.

Gary Margolis
Cornwall

Elder

(Continued from Page 4A) national purpose. Grounding a new conversation in such widely shared apprehensiveness may be one way to free American politics from a mode of discourse too often as repetitive and unproductive as the agitated barking of dogs racing around the well-worn perimeters of their little fenced-in yards.

In her 1970 book “On Death and Dying,” Elisabeth Kübler-Ross explored distinct stages of grief through which people often pass, including denial, anger, bargaining and acceptance. As Kübler-Ross herself acknowledged, there are of course widely varied responses to loss, not a uniform pattern. Still, in my own experience and observation of personal loss, anger is frequently a prominent early feature of the process. We want to say “No!” to certain changes in

our lives that feel unbearable. But there they remain. In order to move forward now, we Americans need to focus less on disagreements and more on our shared, disquieting sense that our nation has lost its way. We need to meet on a path of shared grief in order to advance together toward hope. Grief is not a matter of endless lamentation, but instead a determined, if sometimes laborious, passage toward the door of acceptance, through which we must step in order to find a capacity for renewal.

Shared grief offers us an opportunity for escape from partisan rancor and into a shared project of imagining better ways to facilitate housing, medical care, employment and education for our neighbors. Into a re-telling of our nation’s story that includes all voices. Into a mindful and dedicated

effort to protect our children from the predatory influences of social media in this era of ubiquitous cell phones. The malaise of our political moment feels inextricable from the continuing impact of COVID on so many of our institutions and social expectations. So in contemplating our need as a nation to step through the door of grief together I take courage from Arundhati Roy’s description of the pandemic too as “a portal.”

“We ... can walk through lightly, with little luggage,” she writes, “ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it.”

Bristol resident John Elder retired after a long career as an educator at Middlebury College and the Bread Loaf School of English. His last four books have combined discussions of poetry and music, evocations of the Vermont landscape, and memoir.

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

with cute names: Sweet 16, mid-life crisis, empty nest syndrome. But I think it’s important to give them space. My mother’s having to figure out how to cut back, obeying the limits of a body she can no longer count on. My son’s learning how to navigate life without us. And I’m going to have to adapt to not having children attached for the first time in years.

I don’t know what I will be yet without this anchor that grounds me, centers me, structures my days. But it helps to talk to people who’ve been through it. Those who told me, I cried every day for a week when my daughter left. Those who fought depression for three months. Those who said, now I can devote my love and care to other things. If they can, I can, too.

Buddhists like to say there isn’t an essential nature to things. You’re not one person through your life, but a chain of them. I was a child, then a teenager, then tumbled into

my 20s greedy for new experiences, new knowledge, new lives. By the time I had my first child, I’d bounced around from state to state, job to job, trying out one role, then another. It took a while to get used to staying put.

It might take a while, but I’ll get used to this, too.

Erin Ruble is a writer and

immigration lawyer. She enjoys volunteering with local organizations such as Addison County Restorative Justice Services, Treleven, Middlebury Friends Meeting, and others. She lives in New Haven with her husband and now just her daughter and the occasional flock of chickens. You can find her at erinruble.wordpress.com.

Diegel

(Continued from Page 4A)

“make good trouble, necessary trouble” and “get in the way.”

How should we, as Vermonters, comport ourselves when ICE comes to our cities and disappears our neighbors? Are we duty-bound to stand in their way — openly, lovingly and willing to accept the penalty? I don’t ask assuming the answer. I honestly want to know what our political and religious leaders think. We are desperate for guidance. What is “good trouble?” What does it mean to “get in the way?” Please help.

John Diegel
Panton

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NOVEMBER 12

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ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Michael Irvin Stark, 61, of Monkton

MONKTON — With heavy hearts, we share that Michael Irvin Stark, 61, passed away Oct. 17, 2025, in his home with his fiancée by his side. His passing was untimely, and he has gone to his forever hunting grounds.

Michael was known for his warm smile, generous spirit, and unwavering devotion to his family and friends. A man who always put others before himself, he was the first to lend a helping hand and never hesitated to offer a listening ear. His legacy lives on in the values he instilled, the memories he created, and the love he gave so freely. Michael was a devoted father. He put his family above all else and worked tirelessly to provide, support and guide those he loved. His wisdom, patience and kindness left a lasting impact on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Michael was raised in Monkton, Vt., most of his life and graduated Mt. Abe in 1981. In Michael's younger years he enjoyed Taekwondo, achieving Red Belt and many awards. Michael often



MICHAEL IRVIN STARK

went fishing/hunting with his father or close friends. If you ever talked rifles with him, you'd quickly learn he had strong — and well defended — opinions, especially about why a 30-06 was better than a 6.5 Creedmore or a 308 Winchester. He found joy whether it was playing a lively game of horseshoes with friends or loved ones (RINGER!), or a quiet challenge of chess, a game that reflected his thoughtful and strategic nature. Michael was

always quick with a joke or story to fill a room with laughter. Michael loved to make maple syrup with his family and friends, and teaching his grandkids how to tap the trees. His football team was the Miami Dolphins, and he was a devoted fan.

Michael is survived by his fiancée, Debra Larocque and their blended children, Ervin Stark (Gena Stark), Tinaya Raymond (Brent Raymond), Isaac Larocque, and Michelle Stark; grandchildren Makenna, Logan, Maddy, Emerson, Alex, Lilymae, Gibson, Declan, and Ezra; Michael's mother, Margot Stark; sisters Christie Stark, Betty Blanchard (Randy Blanchard); nephews Trent and Daniel Emmons; and many aunts uncles and cousins.

He was predeceased by his father, Irvin C. Stark; granddaughter Hailey Stark; nephews Jamie and Jason Emmons; and niece Ashley Emmons.

A celebration of his life will be held from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 16, at Bristol American Legion. All who knew him are welcome to come share memories, laughter and love in his honor. ♦

Christine Emaline Reitz, 86, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Christine E. Reitz, 86, of Hardscrabble Road, Bristol, Vt., passed away peacefully at home on Oct. 28, 2025. She was surrounded by her family.

Christine was born to George E. Reitz and Dorothy E. (Helms) Reitz on Feb. 12, 1939. She was born in Reading, Pa., and raised in Laureldale. Christine "Chris" graduated from Muhlenberg High School in 1956. She attended Lankenau Nursing School and graduated in 1959. She married in 1961 and had three children. In 1976, Chris divorced and continued her education, culminating in a B.S. in Psychology and Sociology from New England College.

Chris' adventurous spirit took her from Reading, Pa., where she traveled to Philadelphia and then on to Connecticut, Japan, North Carolina, and then back to Pennsylvania. The family then settled in Hancock, N.H., where she lived for over 20 years. She worked as a nurse, a school nurse, public health nurse, in respite care, and as a counselor; always wanting to work with and help others. Chris worked in the Peace Corps in Turkmenistan for a year and then as a nurse at



CHRISTINE EMALINE REITZ

Joseph's House in Washington, D.C., for a year. She then lived in Newport News with her oldest daughter and family for several months, and then moved to Portland, Maine, until 2006. Later that year Chris moved to Burlington, Vt., and eventually settled in Bristol, Vt., in 2019.

Chris often volunteered for Bernie Sanders and humanitarian causes, including the Red Cross and the Addison County Parent Child Center. She was always there with helpful advice, kind words,

a smile or a hug. While living in Japan, Chris learned traditional floral arranging. She was also an accomplished seamstress — making outfits for herself and her children. She enjoyed knitting, cross-stitch, and quilting.

Christine is survived by her three children, Deborah Little (Phillip), Robert Bailey (Cate) and Donna Bailey (Nash); sister Patricia A. Gaul; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Christine was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Kenneth G. Reitz, sister Carolyn H. Schlegel and her granddaughter Jaclyn N. Little-Withrow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Addison County Parent Child Center www.addisoncountypcc.org, The Vermont Food Bank vermontfoodbank@vtfoodbank.org or any charity of your choice in the name of Christine Reitz.

A celebration of life for Christine E. Reitz will be held on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026, at 1 p.m., at Zabby & Elf's Stone Soup Restaurant, located at 211 College St., Burlington, Vt. ♦

Richard Patrick Marshall, 65, of Weybridge

WEYBRIDGE — Richard Patrick Marshall, 65, of Weybridge, Vt., died peacefully on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025, in Round Rock, Texas, surrounded by his loving family. His last selfless act was to donate his organs to save other people's lives.

Rick was born on April 10, 1960, in Berwyn, Ill., to Richard and Nancy (Patrick) Marshall. He attended St. Louise de Marillac in La Grange Park, Ill., and graduated from Riverside-Brookfield High School in Riverside, Ill., in 1978. He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 1983 and began work at Digital Equipment Corporation in Marlborough, Mass. On June 4, 1988, he married Sara (Thurber) in Middlebury, Vt., and they raised their three boys in Weybridge.

After spending 16 years with Digital, Rick began his own business, Cadenza Systems, working in IT for mid-sized newspapers around the country. After 12 years, he closed his business, spent four years at Keurig Dr. Pepper, then joined the Orvis Company as part of their IT team. He thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Orvis family.

Rick had many interests and passions that he pursued throughout his life. At Digital he learned to play ice hockey and was a member of one of the competitive teams. On moving to Weybridge, he became involved at the Memorial Sports Center, playing ice hockey, volunteering to drive the Zamboni,



RICHARD PATRICK MARSHALL

refereeing both youth and high school hockey games, serving as president of the Friends of Middlebury Hockey, and generally helping out around the rink in myriad ways. In 2017, he became the rink manager and immediately, as was his way, set about upgrading rink communications electronically and endeavoring to make improvements to every part of the center.

From an early age, Rick played the guitar, among other instruments, and followed this passion all his life. He took lessons in downtown Chicago, spent weekends at Jorma Kaukonen's Fur Peace Ranch learning the craft from professional musicians, and ultimately helped form a band, the Horse Traders, which played events and weddings around Vermont.

But above all, Rick loved spending time with his family. He was happiest smoking meat and

cheese on his Big Green Egg for a family dinner; going to concerts with his sons, especially to see the Allman Brothers at the Beacon Theater in NYC; taking walking tours in Europe with Sara, where he would utilize his skill with his digital camera to take (many!) photos; or walking the beaches of Cape Cod with Sara and their dog, Buster, on a cool fall day. He also loved his trips back to Chicago to see his family there. He remained an avid Bears, Blackhawks, and Cubs fan.

He will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Sara (Thurber); sons Alex (Thana), Nate (Caitlin), and Ben; and grandchildren Connor and Elliot; his father, Richard; sisters Patti, Cathy, and Sue; and many beloved in-laws and nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his mother, Nancy.

The family is extremely appreciative of the care Rick received at Ascension Seton Williamson Hospital in Round Rock, Texas, and they thank the extraordinary staff and medical personnel who cared for him and helped his family during his last days.

A celebration of Rick's life will take place on Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. at the Congregational Church in Middlebury. In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made in Rick's memory to the Friends of Middlebury Hockey, Marshall Memorial, P.O. Box 835, Middlebury, VT 05753 or online at memorialsportscenter.org/support-msc/donate. ♦

Peter Kellerman, 68, of Weybridge

WEYBRIDGE — Peter Kellerman, 68, of Weybridge died at Porter Hospital the early morning hours of October 30th, surrounded in spirit by the many souls who deeply loved him. He had lived valiantly and fully for over two years with his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, which he never let define his life or who he was.

Pete was born in the Bronx and moved as a child with his family to Long Island. He was the only son in a family of four younger sisters and grew up surrounded by aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins and many friends. Then, as a young man, Peter became involved with a small Franciscan religious group and moved with them from Long Island to the Bay Area in California. The group dissolved after seven years but he remained on the west coast for a longer time.

Although he loved living in California, he eventually returned east to New England and began a rural life in Vermont, where he had a farm in Addison. At one point in his farming career, he had 350 milking goats, among several other random animals.

However, the main focus of his life, as it had been in California, was in human services. He earned a degree in psychology while working full-time at Cabot and went on to work at CVOEO in Middlebury and eventually became the Executive Director of the John Graham Emergency Homeless Shelter in Vergennes, from which he retired in 2020.

Pete loved his life, his people



PETER KELLERMAN

and where he lived in Weybridge, surrounded by the natural world with all the variety of wildlife, from birds to bears. The owl's call at night or the geese honking from their flight never ceased to delight him. It was a treat to wake up to a gaggle of turkeys crossing the yard. Daily discovery walks were an important part of life, changing as the natural world evolved with the seasons. He thought nothing of going out with a chainsaw and cutting down a large tree that was blocking part of the view, or cutting and stacking a cord or two of wood to see us through the winter.

He loved having a hospitable home and enjoying the company of friends and family, of making a perfect fire in the fireplace and a perfect martini. He appreciated good conversations, eating and cooking good food, and the simple joy of togetherness. Pete lived with music. He was a great Beatles fan, but his listening repertoire was vast and varied.

He and Martha spent many happy times on the coast of Maine, as well

as taking several trips to Europe, where he especially loved visiting Switzerland and Martha's family there. Even last spring, before his illness finally overtook him, he and Martha spent almost three weeks in France and Pete finally got to experience Paris.

In Middlebury Peter was an active member of Saint Stephen's Church, where he was senior warden, a role that especially appealed to him, as he held a sustaining belief in the possibility of good outcomes, however defined. Above and beyond that, he was a deeply spiritual person, grounded in the faith which sustained him, especially in the last months of his life.

Pete will be deeply missed by his wife, Martha Hill; his parents Peter and Michelina Kellerman and his sisters Joan Savery, Patty Scholl, Lisa Kellerman and Katherine Kellerman, all of Long Island; his son-in-law Steffen Hillemann and wife Korinna in Burlington with grandchildren Malin and Jacob; brother and sister-in-law David and Tami Munford in Middlebury; as well as countless other dear friends and family members far and wide.

Peter was a caregiver by nature. He leaves us all with the legacy of his great ability to love and connect with people, his open and welcoming heart, his love of family and friends, his sense of humor and his service to his church and community.

There will be a memorial service at Saint Stephen's Church in Middlebury on Nov. 22 at 2 p.m. Contributions to the John Graham Shelter in Vergennes or to CVOEO or HOPE in Middlebury would be appropriate. ♦

Obituary Guidelines

The Independent will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Independent offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to obits@addisonindependent.com.

Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Wednesday for publication in the Thursday paper. Email obits@addisonindependent.com or call 802-388-4944 for more information.

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Climate

(Continued from Page 3A)
want to learn or they want to share what they're working on," she said of the conference.

She noted that work is part of the role of the college's Climate Action

Program, which supports students in their efforts to tackle climate change.

"When I think about the role of the Climate Action Program in this, one is to help facilitate and make possible some of the dreams that students have, and also really making sure that we're showcasing that no matter what your background or interest or entry point into climate is that you have a place," Brown said. "I do think that SNEG does a really great job of taking that ethos to heart, and this (conference) I think is going to be a really nice time for us to be able to explore that."

For more information on the upcoming conference visit tinyurl.com/whatworksnowmidd.

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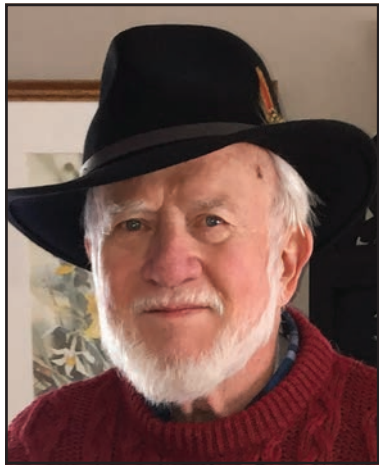
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Obituaries

Robert Bruce Borden, 92, of East Middlebury

EAST MIDDLEBURY — To his delight, Robert Bruce Borden entered the Pearly Gates Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025. He had lived a long, rich life, and was ready for his next journey.



ROBERT BRUCE BORDEN

Born in Boston in 1933, raised in Fall River, Mass., and Newark, N.J., Robert attended Yale on a full scholarship, the first person in his family to go to college. Yale was a challenge for a young man from Newark, but as he adjusted to preppy young men and to superb professors, he became a fine scholar and took great delight in the life of the mind.

He served as instructor in the Army Security Agency, then worked in the Insurance Industry for some years before he followed his dream of academic life. He studied Anthropology at Boston University, received a Fulbright grant to analyze and preserve archaeological treasures in Liberia, and then moved from academia into a life of service. He worked as an educational consultant, chaired the Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Vocational-Technical Education, raised funds for The Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, and then retired to Rochester, Vt., with his wife Lori. There he worked as a case manager for The Central Vermont Council on Aging, helping many elderly clients adjust to the challenges of poverty and governmental bureaucracy.

He retired a second time at the age of 82 after working at Menig Nursing Home at Gifford Medical Center in Randolph. He served for some years on the Board of Mountain Community Health in Bristol, as chair for three years.

In 2012 Robert married The Rev. Catherine Nichols of East Middlebury. They became a two-priest family, as he had been ordained to the Episcopal priesthood in 2001, she in 1984. He served the congregation of Christ Church, Bethel as a volunteer priest for many years.

He is survived by his beloved children, Diana Borden (Houston, Texas), Cynthia Prescott (Weymouth, Mass.), Robert Borden Jr. (Marblehead, Mass.) and Rebecca Foletta (Austin,

Texas); beloved stepdaughter Carol Bendall (Greenwich, N.Y.); beloved stepchildren Lowell McKelvey (Portland, Ore.) and Cara Baggott (Colchester, Vt.); grandchildren Dr. Amelia Averyt and Joe Crawford of Houston, Texas; George and Evan Paicopoulos of Wayland, Mass.; Olivia Foletta of Rochester, N.Y., and Jessica Otero of Weymouth, Mass.; great-grandchildren Franklin and Harold in Houston and Juliana and Jayda in Weymouth; and stepgranddaughters Taylor McKelvey of New York and Alexandra and Isabel Baggott of Vermont.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Barbara Adams, and second wife, Lori Borden, who died in 2009.

His friends and family describe him as quietly funny, fond of irony, both dignified and humble, and always kind and compassionate in part as a result of being responsible for his intellectually challenged older sister and his widowed mother for many years. Those who knew him will never forget his deep, mellifluous voice.

The family is enormously appreciative of the staff at Addison County Home Health and Hospice, whose help was superbly compassionate.

A celebration of his life will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Middlebury, on Friday, Dec. 5, at 2 p.m. ◊

McKibben

(Continued from Page 3A) work," McKibben said. "It's taking the most global of all problems and bringing it down to the level where we can take serious action to both lessen our impact and improve our local communities. That's going to take all of us, and it's why this group's efforts are so crucial."

Energy Navigators brings personalized, start-to-finish advice and support to local homeowners and renters about energy-saving improvements such as heat pumps. The program also provides guidance about rebates, financing options, and budget-friendly choices.

Although nearly half of participants to date are low- or moderate-income residents, the Navigator's free services are available to local residents of all income levels.

While Energy Navigators has

received several grants, CEAC is now seeking individual donations to build Navigators for the long haul.

McKibben is founder of Third Act, which organizes people over the age of 60 for action on climate and justice. Even as our climate, and our democracy, are melting down, he insists the moment is also full of possibility. Energy from the sun and wind is suddenly the cheapest power on the planet and growing faster than any energy source in history—if we can keep accelerating the pace, we have a chance to slow disastrous climate change and revitalize civilization.

Along with Middlebury College students, McKibben helped found 350.org, the first global grassroots climate campaign. He lives in Ripton with his wife, the writer Sue Halpern.

Founded in 2019, CEAC's mission is to reduce greenhouse

emissions in Addison County in a timely and equitable manner, well promoting and supporting a just transition to a healthy and sustainable local economy. More info at www.ceacac.org.

Thanks to the Vermont Book Shop, McKibben's new book will be available for purchase at the event, which begins at 7 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court in Middlebury.

In addition to Energy Navigators, CEAC's work includes:

- A detailed Greenhouse Gas Inventory of area climate emissions.
- Coordination with local businesses, government agencies and academic institutions engaged in energy and climate work.
- Engaging with social and economic justice organizations in Vermont.

Lincoln backs changes to town meeting

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — Lincoln voters on Tuesday approved changes to the community's annual Town and Lincoln School District meetings, agreeing to hold those gatherings on a Saturday next year and add the option of using of an electronic voting system.

Town Clerk Sally Ober stated that over 121 people turned out for the special town and Lincoln School District meetings at Burnham Hall. She said the combined meetings lasted more than two hours, and that the evening was filled with discussion.

Calling the special town meeting was recommended to the town's selectboard by Lincoln's Town Meeting Advisory Committee, which over the past several months has explored options for boosting voter participation and accessibility at Lincoln's annual gatherings.

The committee in August voted unanimously on a handful of recommendations to present to the selectboard, including holding the Nov. 4 meeting.

Ober provided Tuesday's unofficial voting results to the *Independent*, but noted there were many amendments proposed and the meeting notes and recording

will need to be reviewed before the minutes are finalized.

On Tuesday residents voted to hold Lincoln's annual town meeting at 10 a.m. on "the Saturday preceding the first Tuesday in March, beginning with the 2026 Annual Town Meeting," a measure that passed by voice vote. The town has previously held its annual gathering on the Monday evening prior to Town Meeting Day.

Voters amended Article 2 on the special meeting warning, which after amending asked if the town should use an electronic voting system as a voting procedure at floor town meetings starting in 2026, "and authorize the Selectboard to rent/buy the electronic voting system?" That article passed as amended, 100-21.

Ober has previously explained the electronic voting system consists of clickers that would be passed out to voters at the annual gathering. When voting on an article, residents would

click "yes" or "no," with results appearing on a screen.

During the Lincoln School District special meeting, voters agreed to hold the district's annual meeting on the Saturday preceding the first Tuesday in March. That article passed by voice vote.

Residents amended Article 2 on the warning, which ultimately asked if the district should "change its procedure from paper balloting to the use of an electronic voting system, to be used when the moderator's declaration of votes taken from the floor is questioned at a meeting, or if electronic voting is requested in the same manner in which a paper ballot is requested?" The article passed as amended by voice vote.

In other business on Tuesday, residents thanked Lincoln Community School 5th-grader Lincoln Ratta for being one of the microphone runners at the meeting. Ratta is one of seven finalists for Vermont Kid Governor.

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Illness

(Continued from Page 2A)

People at higher risk of serious illness — including older adults, infants and young children, pregnant people, and those with weakened immune systems — are especially encouraged to get vaccinated.

Vermont health officials published updated recommendations for the COVID-19 vaccine this year to help ensure anyone who wants the vaccine is able to get it. Anyone aged 5 years old and up can get COVID-19 and flu vaccines at a pharmacy. Vaccines are also available through health care providers, including for children younger than 5; reach out to your provider to learn more.

Health insurance will cover the cost for most people to get vaccinated. Adults younger than 65 without health insurance, or whose insurance doesn't include immunizations, can get vaccines at

no cost through their local health office.

Like any medicine, vaccines can cause side effects. They're usually mild, like a sore arm or feeling tired for a day or two.

"Good health is a shared effort," Hildebrandt said. "Getting vaccinated, washing hands often, and staying home when sick all help us care for ourselves and each other. If you have questions about

vaccines, talk with your health care provider or pharmacist. They can help you make the best decision for you and your family."

The Health Department monitors flu activity seasonally, COVID-19 throughout the year and publishes an annual vaccination dashboard.

Find more information at HealthVermont.gov/StayHealthy.

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College faculty explore how to cultivate democratic citizens

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — A liberal arts education can provide an ideal opportunity to prepare students for contributing to a healthy democracy, but institutions like Middlebury College face some headwinds in that work, such as the rise of artificial intelligence and its impacts.

That was one takeaway from an academic roundtable held at the college this past Friday as part of the events celebrating the inauguration of Middlebury College President Ian Baucom (see related story). The roundtable was one of two moderated by Baucom and three sessions in all held last week, each of which explored the role of higher education today.

The first discussion centered on “Cultivating Democratic Citizens” and included remarks from five faculty members. Panelists spoke of the role of a liberal arts education in that process, as well as challenges and opportunities

institutions face in doing so. “Democracy is messy and nuanced. With the values of freedom and equality undergirding their liberal arts education, students are able to explore different ways of knowing themselves, their community and the world,” said Amit Prakash, visiting assistant professor of global studies. “The liberal arts college then, rather than functioning as an engine to reproduce elites, can at its best function as an engine of democracy.”

Along with the roundtable featured James Calvin Davis, the George Adams Ellis Prof of Liberal Arts and

professor of religion; Shawna Shapiro, professor of writing and linguistics; Hector Vila, associate professor of writing and rhetoric; and Damascus Kafumbe, Edward C. Knox Professor of International Studies and professor of music.

Davis offered a historical perspective on the liberal arts and democratic character. He pointed to John Witherspoon, former president of what is now Princeton University and the only clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence.

“According to Witherspoon, a civil society that prioritizes broad education shapes the character of its citizens and helps to invest in the common good,” he said.

Davis noted there were real problems with higher education in Witherspoon’s time, as there are today.

“But the proper response to these challenges is not to abandon education as unimportant, but to reclaim the historic mission of college, especially the liberal arts,” he said. “Like John Witherspoon, I believe that colleges serve a public mission when they train students for civically-minded vocations, while also offering a laboratory for

citizenship in a pluralistic society.”

Other speakers shared thoughts on the potential of a liberal arts education. Prakash said while elite liberal arts colleges can often work to reproduce elites, he believes “the purpose of the liberal arts education is to learn how to think freely in a society of free equals.”

“I believe the liberal arts education provided at places like Middlebury can model the complexities of the ways of knowing, demonstrate what reasonable differences of interpretation look like, and provide students with the intellectual and social tools to think freely for the rest of their lives,” he said.

Shapiro spoke of Critical Language Awareness (CLA), “a mindset and skillset that helps us understand the complex intersections among language, identity, privilege, and power,” according to the CLA Collective’s website. Shapiro said a CLA approach encourages questions at the heart of life in a diverse democracy.

“Critical Language Awareness is, I believe, essential to social and personal transformation. It equips our students to question, to listen and to speak with both courage and care,” Shapiro said. “And those are precisely the habits that we need in order to sustain healthy, vibrant communities, communities that invest in sustaining democracy.”

Attendees also heard from Vila on liberal arts in the age of artificial intelligence. Vila referred to a call for cultivating technomoral virtue — the wisdom and moral habits that help individuals navigate all that comes with new technologies.



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE PRESIDENT Ian Baucom, left, moderates an academic roundtable on “Cultivating Democratic Citizens” held at the college this past Friday. The session was one of three roundtables held last week as part of events marking Baucom’s inauguration.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

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“If we produce a generation fluent in technology but lacking in technomoral virtue, we’ll have people who can build AI systems but not question whether they should,” Vila said. “Conversely,

if we cultivate a technomoral character... then we have citizens capable of steering technological change towards democratic ends, towards justice, towards genuine human flourishing.”

Kafumbe shared reflections on how arts education can serve as “a vital training ground for democratic engagement.” He spoke of the African music and dance performance course he’s developed over 21 years, which he said helps students gain skills needed for democratic citizenship.

“Consider... a xylophone piece where three interlocking parts create one song. No single part dominates, yet the whole emerges from individual contributions; this is democracy made audible,” he said. “Such course activities and assignments emphasize collective negotiation, shared decision making, accountability to the community — core democratic competencies that extend beyond the classroom.”

Baucom highlighted a recurring theme in the remarks shared: character. Panelists were then asked how the work of cultivating character and democratic citizens is possible, in

light of the challenges institutions face in that work.

Vila said he wasn’t sure. He pointed to the significant impacts of AI systems and students’ use of the technology.

“They’re all using AI because they want something to be easy,” he said. “Democracy is difficult. Engagement with differences is difficult. Thinking through our challenges is difficult. It requires time, but we have a technology that is on the one side telling us ‘There’s not enough time, so use this it’s easier,’ which is the opposite.”

Other panelists expressed cautious optimism over how this work continues to be possible.

Kafumbe said it feels possible in the arts and humanities as individuals use their bodies to do much of the learning, appreciating and other actions.

“It’s possible if we can think about what the bodies are capable of and the idea that the individual can coexist alongside the collective; that is something that we need to think about,” he said.

Shapiro noted the value of pleasure in learning.

“It doesn’t have to be an unpleasurable experience; critical thinking can be a very embodied and pleasurable experience,” she said. A recording of all three academic roundtables hosted last week can be viewed at tinyurl.com/middroundtables.

Zeno Mtn. to host 12-hour dance

LINCOLN — Zeno Mountain Farm has announced its 8th annual Dance Marathon. The event will take place on Saturday, Nov. 15, in the nonprofit’s renovated barn-turned-theater at 950 Zeno Road in Lincoln.

From 1 p.m. to 1 a.m., the space will be filled with dancers, live music, great food, costumes, and roller skating. This year the theme is “Rock and Roll.” The money raised will support Zeno Mountain Farm programming for the upcoming year.

This fundraiser and dance party is a grassroots / community run event, and it’s a pretty epic scene. Open to anyone and everyone, people gather at Zeno to dance the day and night away. Musicians from Vermont donate their talents for 12 hours of live bands and DJs. JoyRidersVT provides free roller skating. People

volunteer to cook food, help decorate and so much more so that Zeno can continue its mission of creating lifelong connections.

There are many different ways to participate (even online) and for more information: fundraiser.givesmart.com/e/aahyTg?vid=1m92sr.

Established in 2008, Zeno hosts retreats for people with disabilities, cancer, chronic illness, those in sobriety and veterans. A key part of its model is that it doesn’t charge or pay anyone to attend, and people are invited back year after year.

The mission of Zeno is to support lifelong friendships and opportunities for people with and without disabilities and other marginalized communities. Zeno hosts annual retreats and camps at its home base in Lincoln. Currently, it has 15 different retreats throughout the year spanning over 100 days.

Sew pillowcases for Porter

MIDDLEBURY — This month, Quilters’ Corner in Middlebury is partnering with The Makery at the Hannaford Career Center and other local groups to make 100 cozy pillowcases for patients at Porter Medical Center in its Community Pillowcase Project for Porter. And they need your help.

There are three ways to get involved:

1. Donate fabric. Share from your stash! We’re collecting soft, comforting fabrics (like flannel) in solids or prints — no child-themed designs, please. Make sure fabric is clean and free of odors or pet hair.
2. Sew with us or learn to sew.

Come to sew pillowcases — no experience needed. Quilters’ Corner will provide free instruction, sewing machines, and all materials. Sign-up for a time to sew.

Or join The Makery at the Career Center on Thursday sewing nights: For specifics contact Faith Daya at Faithdaya55@gmail.com

3. Drop off completed pillowcases. Already a sewist? Make a few at home and drop them off at Quilters’ Corner anytime in November. Ask us for a free pillowcase pattern if you’d like one.

Bring comfort and joy to our community one stitch at a time!

Cartoonist Mosco will speak about birds

MIDDLEBURY — Rosemary Mosco, an author, illustrator and speaker whose work connects people with the natural world with humor, will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Otter Creek Audubon Society (OCAS) next week. The meeting at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct, Middlebury is on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. It is free and open to the public; doors open at 6:30 for socializing and light refreshment.

A graduate of the University of Vermont Field Naturalist Program, Mosco has written and drawn for *The New York Times*, *Audubon*, *Rewiring America*, the PBS Kids show "Elinor Wonders Why," *Ranger Rick* magazine, and more, and makes a regular comic strip in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's *Living Bird* magazine. She is best known for her popular nature comic "Bird and Moon," which won the National Cartoonists Society's award for Best Online Short Form Comic. She is also an author and illustrator of books including, "*The Birding Dictionary*" and "*A Pocket Guide to Pigeon Watching: Getting to Know the World's Most Misunderstood Bird*," and the children's book "*Butterflies Are Pretty ... Gross!*"



ACCLAIMED WRITER AND cartoonist Rosemary Mosco will speak at the Otter Creek Audubon Society annual meeting next Thursday.

illustrated by Jacob Souva.

Mosco's talk, titled "Three Common, Overlooked, and Often Loathed Birds," will be on the subject of pigeons, house sparrows and gulls, and will explain what these familiar, unloved bird species can tell us about the world and ourselves.

This featured presentation will be preceded at 7 p.m. by the OCAS Annual Meeting in which President Ron Payne will present a chapter

report and hold a brief business meeting and board election. There will also be an update from Audubon Vermont Vice President Jamey Fidel, followed by the presentation of the Silver Feather Award to Will and Carolyn Jackson, in recognition of their devotion and dedication to the preservation of the natural communities of Addison County.

For more information, visit ottercreekaudubon.org.

Historical Society launches women's history fellowship

VERMONT — The Vermont Historical Society is pleased to announce the launch of its first annual Women's History and Material Culture Fellowship. This fellowship will work with VHS's Collections Manager to explore, identify, and research items from our vast artifact collection to identify and study objects that help to tell the story of women in Vermont.

Fellowship projects will span multiple facets of the VHS collection, offering hands-on experience with everything from costume and textiles to farming

tools and decorative arts found in Vermont homes and businesses. The fellow will also work with staff in the Leahy Library and Archives, identifying and publishing crucial connections between documentary and material culture resources.

This fellowship will include a \$1,500 stipend and will comprise approximately 100 hours beginning in January 2026 in-person at the Vermont History Center in Barre Vermont. Accepted fellows will be expected to write a scholarly article about their work, to be published by VHS in one or more of its digital and print publications.

Fellowship applicants should have a strong interest in women's history, public history, museum collections, and archival research. Qualified candidates will be current students or recent graduates from accredited Bachelor, Masters, or PhD programs.

Interested parties can apply for the fellowship via our application form: <https://form.jotform.com/252925756197168>. Applications close Nov. 30, 2025, 11:59 p.m. EST. Please contact collections.manager@vermonthistory.org with any questions.

County chamber names officials

MIDDLEBURY — In addition to handing out numerous awards at its annual ceremony held on Oct. 23 at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater, the Addison County Chamber also elected new members to its board of directors and new board officers.

New officers for 2025-2026 are Chair, Marty Kulezyk; Vice Chair, Ben Fuller of The Richards Group; Treasurer, Amy Coogler, Marble Trail Financial; Secretary, Heather Foster-Provencher, Champlain Valley Properties.

Elected to serve as Chamber directors for one-year terms were

Tessa Dearborn, Red Clover Pre-School; Amy Coogler, Marble Trail Financial; Heather Foster-Provencher; and Sean Dye, BHHS, Vermont Realty Group. Elected to a three-year term was Elizabeth Ryks, National Bank of Middlebury.

Other directors serving the Chamber and not up for re-election are Amy Carlin, Middlebury College; Ben Fuller, The Richards Group; Doug Dewitt, Bristol Financial; Ned Horton, Otter Creek Bakery & Deli and The Hare and the Dog; and Nicole MacTavish,

Hannaford Career Center. Representatives of organizations serving as chamber directors are: Renny Perry, Addison County Economic Development Corporation and Vergennes Partnership; Kathryn Torres, Co-Executive Director, Better Middlebury Partnership; and Courtney Radford, Executive Director, Bristol Core.

Receiving thanks for finishing terms as Chamber directors were Dickie Austin, Black Sheep Bistro; Megan Mandigo, Marble Trail Financial; and Nancy Foster, Champaign Valley Realty.

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Support

(Continued from Page 1A)

Students can also access on-demand and scheduled medical and mental health services 24/7 through TimelyCare, an online option for receiving counseling and healthcare.

Other opportunities for members of the college community to gather or seek support are offered on campus throughout the week. Those include weekly morning sitting meditation, held Monday-Friday from 8:30-8:45 a.m. in the Crest Room. Other opportunities include a weekly open mic, Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life drop-ins and Student Success Drop-In with staff from CARE Management, class deans and the Center for Teaching, Learning and Research. A full list of opportunities to gather and connect can be found at tinyurl.com/gatheringevents.

Other opportunities for members of the college community to gather or seek support are offered on campus throughout the week.

College officials noted Middlebury College also has hours available with a counselor at the Prism Center for Queer and Trans Life, along with a Queer Grief group that has operated at the college's Prism Center this fall and will continue to do so.

The college's Center for Health and Wellness states on its website that it offers comprehensive care tailored for students' needs, although there are some health care needs that may fall outside of its scope. Those situations include chronic thoughts of suicide or a history of repeated suicide attempts, or "Evidence or risk of progressive deterioration in mental or emotional functioning that requires intensive intervention."

"When a student's health needs fall outside of the scope of the integrated services at the Center for Health and Wellness, our clinicians work with the student to understand their goals, safety needs, and access

to resources in the Middlebury and surrounding areas, or in their home communities," said Barbara McCall, associate vice president for Student Health and Well-being.

"Many students' healthcare teams are a mixture of campus resources and home community resources. Some students contact us over the summer before they arrive as new students to have these conversations and for others we have them while they are enrolled and here on campus."

McCall acknowledged staffing shortages at the Center for Health and Wellness, but said they are managing. "We have a new nurse manager and a medical assistant who will be joining us on Nov. 10, and we are continuing a search for a registered nurse. We are also currently searching for a licensed counselor in Counseling."

McCall noted that due to recent budget reduction targets, the Center for Health and Wellness lost a registered nurse, health educator, and counselor positions this summer.

"Staff in both (Center for Health and Wellness and Middlebury Counseling) offices have been working creatively and diligently to ensure that students continue to have good access to services on campus," said Director of Counseling Tammy Austin. "These efforts have been successful, and both offices continue to offer same day/next day availability for appointments. There is no waitlist for services."

Middlebury's Handbook details the Center for Health and Wellness's confidentiality policy, which states that "Health records at the Center for Health and Wellness are confidential and are kept separate from all other College records that may

be created during your time as an enrolled student ... When students receive treatment from multiple providers, in multiple locations, or with community providers, we exchange only such information as is needed to maintain continuity of care."

Students can make requests to the Center for Health and Wellness, Porter Hospital or Counseling Service of Addison County "to revoke or restrict authorization to share such information," and may authorize sharing of information to third parties like family members.

The policy states that Middlebury College will not release any information about students to third parties without a student's authorization, except under a few conditions. Those conditions include "As necessary to protect you or others from an imminent threat to health and safety, or to protect property from a serious threat of damage."

Austin said students in need of mental health support, or who are worried about a peer, have several avenues to reach out for professional and peer support.

"We have same day and next day access in our Counseling and Health Services offices, weekly programming with professional health educators and peer health educators, professional and student residential life staff living in and on the campus, and the opportunity for any member of our community to submit a care report to be reviewed and followed up on by one of our professional Care Managers," she said. "TimelyCare is available to all students 24/7 and those records are reviewed by our on-campus staff and become a part of students' holistic health records here at Middlebury."

Austin noted counseling staff are available to consult with students, staff or faculty with concerns about a student.

"Counselors can listen, gather information and provide ideas and recommendations on next



BEECHNUTS LIKE THESE are abundant as a fall food source for wildlife in most of Vermont this year. Tree nuts feed wildlife.

Photo by Joshua Morse, VTF&W

Acorns, beechnuts abundant in Vt.

VERMONT — Biologists from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department survey oak and beech stands around the state each fall to assess how plentiful acorns and beechnuts are because they are important fall foods for wildlife.

"We observed a wide spectrum of acorn production this fall across Vermont," said bear biologist Jaclyn Comeau. "Most areas had fair to good acorn crops, but some locations experienced crop failures while others saw bumper crops."

"Beechnut production is excellent throughout much of Vermont," Comeau said. "The most abundant crops are in Southern Vermont, but production is also excellent through much of Central and Northwestern Vermont. The Northeast Kingdom is the only region of Vermont with consistently poor

beechnut production this year."

In areas where acorns or beechnuts are not abundant, many of Vermont's wildlife species will be on the move looking for alternative food options before winter, and some bears will enter winter dens early.

"But no matter where you live, it is important for Vermonters to remain diligent about securely storing common bear attractants such as garbage and birdseed until winter conditions arrive and all bears enter their dens," Comeau added. "We recommend waiting until December when snow is on the ground before putting out bird feeders."

Vermont Fish and Wildlife has other helpful information about living with black bears on its website, tinyurl.com/LiveWithBears.

steps in supporting, or getting support for the student," she said. "Our goal is to normalize help seeking, promote strong peer and professional relationships, and maintain flexible, accessible care

systems so that students do not have to wait once they have asked for help." Help is always available at the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, a national mental health hotline

offering free and confidential support 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The suicide and crisis lifeline is available by calling or texting 988, as well as through an online chat at <https://988lifeline.org>.



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Shutdown

(Continued from Page 1A)

payments, which help offset the high costs of providing services in rural areas.

Congress in March extended the add-on payments at levels of 2% for urban areas, 3% for rural areas and 22.6% for super rural areas. That extension expired on Sept. 30, just before the start of the government shutdown. As of Tuesday evening, the ongoing shutdown was in its 35th day and could become the longest ever.

Bristol Rescue Squad Chief Will Elwell said that the organization, along with other ambulance services in the county, is eligible for the 3% add-on for rural areas.

"While it's not a huge amount of a percentage point, every dollar does help," he told the *Independent*.

Elwell noted that Medicare reimbursement rates have

"Ambulance services are able to choose whether they bill Medicare right now or whether they wait; obviously to wait on billing Medicare you have to have the money to be able to do that."

— Bristol Rescue Squad Chief Will Elwell

increased by about 3.2% annually in recent years, while the cost of fuel, medical supplies and wages for Emergency Medical Services providers have increased at a much steeper rate.

The American Ambulance Association states that EMS agencies reported a 12% increase in the cost of medical supplies from 2019 to 2022, while the average cost of gas in New England rose by 35% from 2019 to 2023.

About 60% of the residents Bristol Rescue Squad serves are Medicare or Medicaid subscribers, Elwell said. He added Medicare payments were frozen for the first two weeks of the shutdown and have since resumed without the add-ons.

"Ambulance services are able to choose whether they bill Medicare right now or whether

they wait; obviously to wait on billing Medicare you have to have the money to be able to do that," Elwell said. "Basically, they're hoping they'll be able to collect that 3% (add-on) later on, which all ... is still kind of up in the air."

He said ambulance providers could see the add-on payments distributed retroactively, which has been the case in the past. But whether that happens this time around will depend on the spending bill lawmakers agree on.

Elwell noted those looking to support ambulance providers can reach out to their elected officials and encourage them to renew the add-on payments. Community members can also donate to the Bristol Rescue Squad.

In the meantime, Elwell said the squad is trying to push through and avoid any changes in the service it provides to residents.

"We're able to continue to function. Obviously, it's a little tighter; we're having to really look at purchases we make and where our money is going to do the most good for the value of the dollar," he said.



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE PRESIDENT Ian Baucom waves to the crowd after being formally installed to his post by Middlebury Board of Trustees Chair William F. Truscott at a ceremony this past Sunday. The ceremony in Virtue Field House capped a weekend full of events celebrating his inauguration.

Photo by Andy Duback

Baucom

(Continued from Page 1A)

(knowledge and virtue) — among many others.

He noted the institution now comes into a moment when the outcome of the case for college at times seems in question.

"But its outcome is not in doubt, and we will not give up on it because we know that our first idea was a good one, and we have always dreamed of more," Baucom said. "Across a Civil War, world wars, the Cold War, depression, recessions, Red Scares, all history's turbulence, we have endured and emerged stronger, more vibrant, more open to the future."

"However complex our moment, we will not fear it," he continued. "We know that we will meet it. How could we not, if we know what we are for?"

Leading up to the installation ceremony, Baucom took part in several events around campus, including meet-and-greets, musical performances and three academic roundtables exploring the role of higher education today (see story on Page 7A).

More than 500 members of the Middlebury College community, county residents and other guests turned out for Sunday's installation ceremony.

Attendees heard from several speakers, including Middlebury selectboard Chair Brian Carpenter; and Julia Alvarez, an award-winning author, Middlebury College alum and writer in residence emerita.

During his inaugural address, Baucom reflected on the efforts that led to Middlebury College's founding in 1800, an act that initially faced obstacles in obtaining a charter from the Vermont Legislature.

Baucom also recounted his personal path to Middlebury, one that began in the Hudson Valley and wound through South Africa, where his parents were missionaries and ran adult literacy programs for mine workers during the Apartheid era.

"How I arrived at Middlebury from a town of a couple hundred people in deeply rural, 1970s apartheid South Africa is one of those American stories that just doesn't happen without colleges and universities

opening their doors to students from everywhere," he said. "If you remember one thing from these remarks, that is it — I am, profoundly, a beneficiary of the American project of democratic education. It changed my parents' lives. It changed my life. I believe in it, and as president I will fight for it, and for every student whose lives we can help open."

Baucom also pointed to a recent announcement that the college will launch a new strategic planning process centered around the question, "What is Middlebury for?"

He shared some of his preliminary responses to that question, including that Middlebury is for democracy, "the life-transforming power of the liberal arts, the advance of knowledge and the flourishing of young lives."

In closing, Baucom shared one final thing he is for.

"I am for the commitment that I have come to Middlebury not to be 'the president,' but to be your president," he said. "I am here to be your president on sweet days and hard days ... as the town's college becomes ever more the world's college and the planet's college and the college of every student, faculty and staff member coming to join us and re-invent us, one by one by one, animated at our core by our free pursuit of knowledge together. On all those days, Wendy and I and all our family have come to join this family and join our lives with you."



"I am, profoundly, a beneficiary of the American project of democratic education. It changed my parents' lives. It changed my life. I believe in it, and as president I will fight for it."

— President Baucom

Workers

(Continued from Page 1A)

belongings. The storm has also torn up roads and destroyed communication networks, leaving many communities cut off.

Roughly 500 Jamaican farmworkers live in Vermont, many of them working for orchards

through the H-2A visa program, which allows American employers to hire foreign workers for seasonal or temporary agricultural work. Many Jamaican farmworkers return to Vermont farms season after season, and as Rule told the *Independent*, are the reason why fresh local apples can reach supermarket shelves.

"These guys are getting up and going to work and have no idea how their families are doing," Rule said.

In addition to Champlain and Sunrise orchards, the other farms involved are Southern Vermont Orchards in Bennington, Green Mountain Orchards in Putney, Dutton Berry Farm in Newfane and Wellwood Orchard in Springfield.

The six farms participating in the donation drive collectively employ 187 men through the visa program, with Champlain Farms employing 58. Rule said that with the apple season winding down, about half

of the men have already returned home to Jamaica and will no doubt be joining the rebuilding effort.

"Unfortunately, the majority of our crew was hit pretty directly. The stories and pictures they've been sharing with us are about the worse you'd see on TV," Rule said.

"Everyone is without a roof, and that's if you're lucky."

SHIPPING SUPPLIES

Over in Cornwall, Sunrise has put out a call for supplies that will help its more-than-40 Jamaican workers. "Their houses are damaged, crops ruined and no clean drinking water nor electricity for at least four months," Sunrise said in a flier.

Sunrise owners Christina and Barney Hodges are sending a shipping container directly to Jamaica next week and are asking people to support the workers by donating supplies in good to excellent condition to the orchard at 1287 North Bingham St. in Cornwall by end of day Monday, Nov. 10. If you need help transporting items, contact Lauren at ogdenla@gmail.com

Items needed: solar lights, solar power generation systems, camping water filters, water

sanitizing tablets, straw filters, chainsaw safety equipment, any construction tools, any landscaping tools, work gloves, tarps, nails and screws, rubber boots size 9-13, and sealed bags of kidney beans and long-grain rice, and vegetable seeds.

As of Wednesday morning, 766 donations to the GoFundMe campaign had been made in five days, raising a total of \$71,517, nearly half of the \$150,000 goal set by Champlain Orchards. Rule said the donated money will eventually be split equally among the farmworkers employed by the farms taking part in the effort.

"We're definitely grateful to see this much money come in in such a short amount of time," Rule said, though he emphasized that there's still a ways left to go to hit the \$150,000 goal.

"We've heard anecdotally and directly that people are happy to see a united front ... I think Vermont is pretty cool in the sense of how connected people are with the food system," Rule said.

"But still, I hope it's a reminder for people to think about where their food is coming from and who's behind the scenes. The reality is its these Jamaican men who ensure healthy food is stocked on our shelves," he added.

Those looking to make a donation can do so here: tinyurl.com/36wuufny.



From left to right: Ben Fuller, Gretchen Kellogg, Wendy Hunt, Susan Hayes, Kelley Knight, Tammy Leno, Brooke Zeno, Missy Clifford, Heather Barnard, Catherine Bresette

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- CHARLIE SELLARS**
Sustainability Director, Microsoft
- CAITLIN MYERS**
Middlebury Professor of Economics & Researcher at National Bureau of Economic Research

Local student is as finalist for Kid Governor

LINCOLN — Lincoln Ratta, a fifth-grade student at Lincoln Community School, has been selected as one of seven finalists for Vermont Kid Governor for his platform advocating for equitable access to health care.

Vermont's Kid Governor is an award-winning civic education program originally created by The Connecticut Center for Democracy. In Vermont, this program is run by the Secretary of State's Office. This is Vermont's first year in participating in this program. This ground-breaking approach to civic education immerses fifth-grade students in learning about state government, elections and voting, and civic participation through a real-life election for their state's Kid Governor. Each registered class can nominate one student for the election, vote in the election, or both. Nominees must research and run on a platform that addresses a community issue they care about. Together with classmates, they create a campaign video about their platform. Fifth-grade voters watch the videos of seven finalists during the statewide election in November

and vote for the candidate and platform they want to support. The student with the most votes is elected Kid Governor and the six finalists serve as their Cabinet. Together, they serve a one-year term of active leadership and work to advance their platforms.

This year, 26 students from across Vermont were nominated by their fifth-grade peers. On Monday, Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas announced the names of the seven finalists and their platforms.

This past Friday, Lincoln Community School welcomed a visit from the Secretary of State and her team, surprising students with an exciting announcement. Lincoln's parents, Elizabeth and Jeremy, were present for the occasion.

"We are incredibly proud of Lincoln for all his hard work with

the VT Kid Governor program and for picking a topic that is so relevant and vital for Vermonters right now," said Elizabeth. "It was so heartwarming to witness how supportive and excited his classmates were for him. We are grateful to the secretary of state for creating this program for 5th graders in Vermont and are filled with pride for Lincoln for his accomplishments and for who he is as a person."

Lincoln's classroom teacher, Laurindo Da Costa, brought the new program to his class when he learned about

the opportunity. "Beyond the authentic civics education that the program provided, my favorite part of the experience was watching the class come together to support Lincoln in creating his campaign video. Every student contributed

by researching, writing the script, editing the footage, or designing props. The class was truly united, all working toward a shared goal," Da Costa said.

Superintendent Amy Cole shared her excitement, stating, "We were thrilled to hear that our student Lincoln was chosen as a finalist. He and his classmates dedicated a tremendous amount of thought, research, energy, and goodwill to his campaign. It was inspiring to see how they all united around an issue that is important to them."

She also mentioned, "The program is fantastic and offers a great opportunity for students to learn about and actively engage in civic participation. I am grateful to Secretary Hanzas and her team for providing this opportunity to the students of Vermont."

For more about Vermont's Kid Governor, the statewide election, and the current kid governor, visit VT.KidGovernor.org. You can also watch a video of Secretary Copeland Hanzas announcing the finalists and view each of the seven finalist videos on the VT Kid Governor YouTube channel.



CARTER MCGUIRE

McGuire selected for DAR Good Citizen's Award

VERGENNES — Each year a Vergennes Union High School senior is chosen for the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizen's Award by faculty members nominating three seniors and then the senior class elects one of those three as their Good Citizen. This award is sponsored by the local Daughters of the American Revolution, Seth Warner-Rhoda Farrand Chapter and is intended to encourage and

reward the qualities of good citizenship. The DAR Good Citizen's Award recognizes a student that possesses the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism to an outstanding degree. This student can apply for a scholarship as well. We are proud to announce that the Class of 2026 DAR Good Citizen is Carter McGuire. Carter is the son of Jack and Alex McGuire of Vergennes.

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FERRISBURGH — The "King Pede" card parties as held by the Ferrisburgh Grange are scheduled for two upcoming Saturdays — Nov. 8 and 22. These get-togethers are held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center and will begin at 6:30 p.m., with a sandwich supper and then on to an evening of fun and games. King Pede is a game of fun and skill, so come prepared to use your strategic thinking! Tax filing season may be months away, but AARP is seeking volunteers who'd like to serve their Addison County communities through the AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program.

Tax-Aide focuses on serving older adults living on low- to moderate incomes, and helps them secure much-needed tax refunds and property tax credits. Volunteers are trained, and classes are held in January (in person or virtually) for the upcoming tax filing season. During tax filing season (February through April), the volunteers will assist taxpayers at sites in Middlebury, Bristol and Vergennes. The time commitment is generally two days per week during tax season. Sign up at tinyurl.com/AARPTaxVolsignUp and a local person will call you. Interested volunteers can also call 802-388-7044, leave a message, and someone will return your call. Visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide for details.

The Addison Northwest School District is hosting an Act 73 Community Forum on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Vergennes Union High School Auditorium. Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall and chair of the House Committee on Education, will share information about Act 73, Vermont's education reform law, and the various task forces and committees who are working on the subject. This is an opportunity to learn more about what the laws mean for our schools and to share your voice with decision-makers. To submit questions in advance visit: tinyurl.com/ACT73Questions. For more information and to access the link for virtual participation visit: tinyurl.com/ANWSD-Act73.

A showing of the film "Screenagers" is being offered by the Vergennes Union Middle and High Schools on Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 5:30 p.m. Families are invited for an evening of reflection, learning, and community conversation about growing up in the digital age. The film "Screenagers: Growing

Up in the Digital Age," is a powerful documentary exploring how technology impacts teens and families. After the film, there will be a panel discussion featuring professionals and students sharing experiences, insights, and resources for navigating life with screens. Childcare is available for families who RSVP by Nov. 7 at forms.gle/EZFaRFAGEcgjXQSc6.

The Bixby Library is hosting a toy swap for the holiday season. Through Nov. 30, bring your clean, gently used toys to the Bixby's circulation desk to donate to the swap. During the Holiday Stroll on Saturday, Dec. 6, come find some "new-to-you" treasures to use for your family or holiday gifts.

The Bixby Library encourages us to warm up to November with creativity and community at the Fiber Arts Circle. Whether you're finishing a project, starting something new, or just wanting to relax with fellow makers, there's a spot for you in the circle. Bring your current work-in-progress or dive into something new with our yarn on hand. Knit, crochet, embroider — makers of all experience levels are welcome. The November dates are Saturday, Nov. 8, noon-2 p.m.; and Saturday, Nov. 22, noon-2 p.m.

The Bixby will host a poetry reading by two notable local poets on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Molly Johnsen, a teacher from Addison, will read from her debut collection, "Everything Alive," an exploration of trauma, disability and healing. Johnsen's poems trace the ways we rebuild ourselves through language and love. A previous version of "Everything Alive" was a semi-finalist for the Black Lawrence

Press St. Lawrence Book Award, and her work has appeared such publications as the *Nashville Review*, *Indiana Review*, and *Cider Press Review*. Karin Gottshall, an associate professor of English at Middlebury College, will share new and forthcoming poems. She is the author of two award-winning collections, "Crocus" and "The River Won't Hold You," along with three limited-edition chapbooks.

Her work has appeared in publications such as *Kenyon Review*, *Colorado Review* and the *Virginia Quarterly Review*. Don't miss this chance to hear the voices of talented poets and experience their art firsthand!

The Bixby Book Club will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 6-7 p.m., to discuss "The Girl with the Louding Voice" by Abi Daré. This is a story about being courageous, resilient and finding the power to speak up for yourself and others. Daré's powerful debut novel is told from in the voice of Adunni, a 14-year-old Nigerian girl determined to get an education so she

can escape a life of poverty and servitude and choose her own future. All readers are welcome — whether you've finished the book, are partway through, or just curious to join the conversation. The book is available at the circulation desk or email martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org to reserve your copy.

Note: We are always interested in including a variety of Ferrisburgh-related event announcements in this column, so if you have news of interest, contact Sally Kerschner at smwkersch@comcast.net. You are also able to access these columns and other information about Ferrisburgh news and events by viewing the Ferrisburgh town website at ferrisburghvt.org.

email us: You can reach us at news@addisonindependent.com

Trans community

(Continued from Page 1A)

Covey was among those who searched for Smith.

"This was not the result we wanted to bring (the family)," he said solemnly.

Covey's not exactly sure what led Smith to take her own life, but he was distressed by some of the insulting/bullying comments he saw posted on social media during the search.

"From our perspective, that certainly wasn't helpful," he said. "People should always have situational awareness. The comments we saw were divisive and just plain hurtful."

The Lia Smith tragedy is sadly a recurring event in the U.S., according to recent data.

A 2023 study by the UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute found that 42% of transgender adults in the U.S. had attempted suicide; 81% had "thought about suicide"; and 56% had engaged in "non-suicidal self-injury" during their lifetimes.

The overall U.S. suicide rate in 2023 was 14.1 per 100,000 population, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

An estimated 2.8 million people (age 13 and older) in the U.S. identify as transgender, according to new estimates from the Williams Institute.

That number includes around 724,000 youth age 13 to 17 (3.3% of youth) and around 2.1 million adults age 18 and older (0.8% of adults).

Three-quarters (76%) of people age 13 and older who identify as transgender are younger than 35 years old.

Meanwhile, an estimated 5% of adult Vermonters identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, according to the Vermont Department of Health. The department further proffers that 8% of high school students identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual.

Sometimes that identity can be difficult.

Sarah Dudek is an office-based clinician for youth and family at the Counseling Service of Addison County. Her caseload includes three individuals who identify as transgender, whom she helps navigate the emotionally taxing process of trying to fit into a society that — at the current federal policy level — shuns them.

"It's a small community, for sure," she said, adding, "there are also folks who are questioning (their gender) and feel unable or unsafe to come out to the people in their lives. So they might feel comfortable talking about it (during counseling) but not sharing outside of this room."

The transgender experience is something Dudek views through a dual lens: that of a social worker, and as a parent. She's mom to a child who identifies as transgender.

"My child spoke of being a girl from the age of two," Dudek said. "As a parent of a young child, you think it's a phase, or you're just not sure. We supported her to express herself the way she wanted to throughout her life. At age 6, she was very adamant about 'this is who she is' and she was experiencing a lot of emotional distress, because she was wearing boy clothes and looking like a boy."

Dudek said her child's young peers have been "incredibly supportive of her. She's really happy."

LAWS ON IDENTITY

But being happy can be elusive as a transgender person, advocates

stressed, particularly in light of recent state laws and executive orders signed by President Donald Trump.

According to the Trans Legislation Tracker, state legislatures (other than Vermont) have passed 123 bills in 2025 seeking to dilute or restrict services or rights for transgender individuals. Many of those initiatives are bans against gender affirming care for those under 18, against "males on female sports teams," or stipulate that only those born with female anatomy can be allowed into women's restrooms.

Among specific bills: Arkansas's Bill HB53, which stipulates no state funds can be used for "a service that may be related to gender dysphoria that is not a mandatory service"; Iowa's Bill SF418, which defines "'Sex,' when used to classify or describe a natural person, means the state of being either male or female as observed or clinically verified at birth"; and Oklahoma's Bill HB1688, which states, "The biological sex designation denoted to a child at birth on the certificate of birth shall not be amended."

Vermont is the only state on the Trans Legislation Tacker that doesn't show any pending or passed legislation aimed

at transgender folks. That's a plus, according to advocates, but still not enough to make trans individuals feel completely safe and secure.

"Even in such a wonderful, supportive community that we have in Middlebury, there are still worries about safety and risk," Dudek said, speaking in particular of young transgender youth. "There's a lot of bullying that occurs in the schools; that can become emotionally and physically dangerous. There's concern for safety."

That concern was palpable while this article was in the works.

Lindsey Fuentes-George, a former Middlebury selectboard member, leads The Teen Center at 77 Mary Hogan Drive in Middlebury. The center attracts Middlebury-area teens from all walks of life — including some members of the LGBTQ+ communities. The acronym stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning and anyone who feels part of the community.

Fuentes-George understands the angst that trans youth are feeling every day, and in particular after Lia Smith's suicide.

"When the world is yelling at them constantly through social media and

and when people in power are vilifying literal children for being themselves — it's easy for them to think the world hates them, that they have to choose between being happy in their own skin or having a future in our society," Fuentes-George said via email. "As a parent myself, I ache knowing that Lia may have felt this way.

And as a parent, I ache knowing her family just wanted to see her grow into her best self, shine her unique light, and come home (at least for the holidays)."

Fuentes-George recalled one of the first requests she fielded from teens when she arrived at the center in 2021 was to hold a Pride event. This led to the founding of MiddPride, which hosts an annual gathering and special events for the LGBTQ+ communities. It's been a rewarding and worthwhile effort, she said.

"Since we started MiddPride, we have seen fewer instances of self-harm among our teens," Fuentes-George said. "We've seen more joy, more authenticity, and more confidence."

Dana Kaplan is executive director of Outright Vermont, a nonprofit with a stated mission of "building a Vermont where all LGBTQ+ youth have hope, equity and power."

"Organizationally, we were deeply saddened to learn of Lia's passing, for sure," Kaplan said.

But Smith's death becomes a more infuriating when one considers the hardening federal stance on trans issues, according to Kaplan.

"It's impossible not to think about the current context that trans people — and specifically, trans youth — are navigating right now, in the U.S., in the midst of this (Trump) administration.

You've got to be able to put this death in the context of what's happening around us."

Kaplan noted Smith's past success as a diver and swimmer, who had "talked about how challenging it was to be able to play the sport she loved to play, because it didn't feel there was a place for her. Or she tried to go to the locker room and didn't

feel like she could do what she needed to do to get ready for her (meet)."

Smith's suicide, Kaplan said, didn't come in a vacuum.

"We know this death came amidst attacks on trans athletes in schools and ways the administration has been restricting the rights of trans people in every aspect of their life," Kaplan said. "We need to be aware of the impact that policies have on the lived experiences of young people."

Outright Vermont holds special activities and events — including a summer camp on land it owns in Orwell and Benson — as part of its outreach to LGBTQ+ and trans youth.

"There are so many Lias out there," Kaplan said. "It hits close, to know this was a young trans person at Middlebury College."

HELPING TRANS YOUTH

Kaplan cited several ways to help trans youth feel more at ease. They include:

- Enjoying a level of family acceptance.
- Having a supportive adult — such as a teacher, or a neighbor — who "believes you and affirms your identity."
- Having a friend group, or a peer who "you can be yourself around, who's going to call you by your right name and pronouns."

Gender identity is a protected category among Vermont's anti-discrimination laws, Kaplan noted. But that hasn't proven to be a panacea.

"We've got good protections for our community, but the lived experience that people are having on the ground does not match

what the protections should be affording," Kaplan said. "So the level of discrimination, the level of bullying that's happening right now — some of it incredibly emboldened by this current administration — is off the charts."

Kaplan challenged folks to imagine themselves living in a world "that either does not reflect your experiences and reality, or tells you that who you are is wrong. That's the stress (of being transgender). For anybody who's navigating their identity in a world that tells you who you are is wrong, or somehow, you're going against the norm, it's not easy."

Like Kaplan, Addison Central School District board member Jess Venable-Novak is a member of the trans community.

Venable-Novak didn't know Smith, but wishes they had.

"When I heard the news about Lia, I was heartbroken," Venable-Novak said through an email exchange.

Venable-Novak knows what Smith was likely going through.

"Transgender folks, especially youth and young people, have to overcome so many barriers that it is often difficult to know that there is hope to hold on to, especially in the political and social climate we find ourselves in today," they said. "Every day we see and hear the lives of trans people being debated, refuted, negated and simply disrespected;

hope can feel out of reach. I don't know the details of Lia's life or her story, but I'm sure she was impacted by the constant attempts to erase transgender people from society. I don't know one trans or non-binary person who hasn't felt the weight of that type of hate, myself included."

Venable-Novak urged folks to check on their trans friends and family members, to see if they're OK and be a compassionate listener.

"As a transgender person who has felt hopeless so many times in my own life, all I can share is that it does, in fact, get better," they said. "Even amidst the hate-filled rhetoric, policies, and threats, there is space for so much joy. Inside every trans person is the most profound conviction, because

we have chosen to be ourselves despite all the ways the world has tried to stop us. I have had the privilege of seeing that conviction blossom into joy and warmth and hope, and be impossible to ignore. At points in my own life, I have needed other trans people to be a mirror for me to see that. I hope that the trans people in our community, especially youth and young folks, know that there are other trans people here, like

myself, who can be that mirror and can remind them that there is hope and joy and that things do get better."

Stephanie Terry is a clinician/social worker at CSAC whose clients include children. Among her clients are young members of the LGBTQ+ community, whom she said have been expressing fear and trepidation about the extent to which marginalized groups could be targeted in an increasingly polarized nation.

"There's a fear about being visible, seen for who they are," Terry said. "How will I be perceived? 'Will I be targeted for who I am?' 'Is it safe to hold my partner's hand?'"

Terry was asked about the feedback she's received from some of her clients in the aftermath of Lia Smith's suicide. In addition to a sense of loss, Terry has heard clients express

"My being trans is a superpower. It makes me a more self-aware person, that I've had to go through this experience and I know deep down who I am."

A STRONG COMMUNITY

Still, Terry takes comfort in her belief that Addison County is a strong community that looks after its own.

"There are lots of places where you can get support. It might feel like there's nobody else, but there are a lot of people who understand," she said.

Like Kaplan, Dudek believes that kinship, understanding and support are key supports for transgender individuals.

"Even in such a wonderful, supportive community that we have in Middlebury, there are still worries about safety and risk. It's making sure they have a place where they feel safe," she said. "Often, the real support they find the most helpful is being with peers, with people who accept them and love them for who they are."

Dudek acknowledged MiddPride and other organizations where trans and LGBTQ+ folks can find peer support and plenty of sympathetic ears. They include Queerly Beloved, with meetings hosted by Middlebury's Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, and a CSAC program called Interlude, based in the Marble Works complex.

These programs offer occasional emotional lifelines, but it can be a lonely road for trans and LGBTQ+ folks in the Green Mountain State, Dudek conceded.

"A thing that is huge is the

social isolation in Vermont, in general, for young people," she said. "Unless you're part of a sports team, or in college, or part of a group, it's really hard to make friends and meet young people, folks they feel safe with and that who accept them."

Isolation can exacerbate mental health and feelings of depression. Dudek said several of her clients have voiced thoughts of self-harm through the years, and Lia Smith's passing proved deflating for others in the trans community.

"(Her death) was so devastating for them — for everyone, really," Dudek said. "For people who are thinking about ending their life, who are feeling hopeless, that experience of learning of Lia's death was really painful. It highlights the enormous emotional stress they are feeling."

What about those who believe transgenderism is a sham, that it's a mental health condition?

"We will never know who a person is, more than they know themselves," Dudek argued. "People know who they are, and we need to trust they know who they are. As a parent of a transgender child, my child spoke

about being their gender from a very young age, before they even knew there was anything different about how they were feeling about who they are.

"We don't fit into little boxes, as humans," she added.

Kaplan believes society doesn't focus enough on the "bright spots" of identity.

"The fact is that, actually, my being trans is a superpower. It makes me a more self-aware person, that I've had to go through this experience and I know deep down who I am," Kaplan said.

What are the warning signs to look for in a person who might be considering self-harm? Growing withdrawal from their support system, a lapse in their daily routine, and/or withdrawing emotionally or physically from the people and things they enjoy.

Suicide is preventable, and help is always available. At CSAC, you can call 802-388-7641, or you can call or text 988 to reach the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. You'll be connected with a trained, compassionate counselor who can provide free, confidential support 24/7.

"You don't have to be in crisis to call," Dudek stressed. "If you're feeling emotionally unstable in any way, you can call. It's important that people don't wait to reach out for help until they're in the worst possible crisis."

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



JESS VENABLE-NOVAK



LINDSEY FUENTES-GEORGE

"When the world is yelling at them constantly through social media and mainstream media — and when people in power are vilifying literal children for being themselves — it's easy for them to think the world hates them."

— Lindsey Fuentes-George

"We know (Lia Smith's) death came amidst attacks on trans athletes in schools and ways the administration has been restricting the rights of trans people in every aspect of their life."

— Dana Kaplan

"Every day we see and hear the lives of trans people being debated, refuted, negated and simply disrespected; hope can feel out of reach."

— Jess Venable-Novak

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Food gap

(Continued from Page 1A)

provisions from the Vermont Food Bank, so it was better positioned to deal with the surge in demand. Montross also marveled at the generosity of area residents who, noting the Congressional budget gridlock, have boosted their donations of food and funds.

“(The recipients) are very grateful,” she said.

Montross urged SNAP recipients to stay calm. She’s placed the following message on HOPE’s website, hope-vt.org:

“SNAP recipients, we’re here to help. Come to HOPE with your EBT card, and a statement showing how much your monthly benefit has been, and we will provide you with the food you need. It may be busy at HOPE, so please be patient as you wait to be assisted. There is no need for panic, we will get through this together! Food shelf hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday.”

Meanwhile, the Counseling

If you’re in a position to donate, here’s what the HOPE food shelf needs the most right now: juice (64-ounce bottles are best), canned vegetables, especially beets, spinach, potatoes and yams; canned fruit, particularly pears, apricots, plums, mandarin oranges and pineapple; hearty soups — split pea, lentil, bean and chowders; canned pasta, including ravioli and spaghetti; kidney beans; canned chili and baked beans; instant pasta and rice dishes; cold and hot cereals, including granola and flavored instant oatmeal; condiments (small sizes); jellies and jams; canned tuna and chicken; snack foods, including crackers, granola bars, cookies and pretzels; can openers and water purification straws for people who are without shelter; personal hygiene products; and cleaning and laundry supplies.

Service of Addison County (CSAC) this week was making sure its most vulnerable clients weren’t struggling with grocery bills during the SNAP flap.

SNAP is particularly vital to roughly two-dozen participants in CSAC’s Community Associates program, which serves people with developmental disabilities living in Addison County.

Mindy Hammann, developmental services director for CSAC, credited staffers Amber Poploski and Sara Mason with spearheading a food pantry at Community Associates. She anticipates the pantry — reserved for clients of limited means — will remain in place even after the government shutdown is over.

“We started working on this as soon as we heard SNAP would probably be at risk,” Hammann said.

So roughly two weeks ago,



UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE federal release of SNAP benefits amid the government shutdown prompted the leaders of some Addison County nonprofits and schools to marshal food resources for the most vulnerable. Here we see Sara Mason, left, and Amber Poploski, who helped organize an emergency pantry for clients of the Counseling Service of Addison County’s Community Associates program.

Photo courtesy of Mindy Hammann

Poploski and Mason solicited food donations by word of mouth and social media. Before long, the pantry room at 109 Catamount Park in Middlebury started to fill with pasta, canned and frozen vegetables, soup, stuffing, bacon, sauces, cereal, fruit and paper products. Eligible CSAC service recipients can pick up provisions when they need them.

SCHOOLS OFFER HELP

Vermont’s universal school meals program, established by Act 64, provides free breakfast and lunch to all public school students, regardless of income. But in light of the potential SNAP benefits lag, the Addison Central School District on Monday announced it would offer “take home food boxes” for any ACSD family that requests one.

Those needing the extra food were asked to call the schools’ front office as early as possible Monday morning, Nov. 3, to reserve a box.

At Mary Hogan Elementary in Middlebury, for instance, officials on Tuesday had a count of 414 boxed meals that would be sent home to families this week. No expiration date was listed for the program. ACSD includes elementary schools in Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge, along with Middlebury Union Middle and High Schools.

“The health and security of all of our families is important to each of us. I’m grateful to work within communities who take care of each other so thoughtfully. We will continue to update you as the situation evolves,” reads an email that ACSD Superintendent Wendy Baker sent to all district parents.

Meanwhile, Mount Abraham Unified School District Superintendent Patrick Reen on

Tuesday sent out a message saying that help would be available to Bristol area families.

“You can reach out confidentially to the main office at your child’s school, and a staff member will connect you with someone who can help coordinate food assistance for your family,” Reen wrote. “This support is being provided through a partnership between MAUSD and the MAUSD Food Service Cooperative.”

“We are deeply grateful to be part of a community that looks out for one another in times of need. Please don’t hesitate to reach out — whether for yourself or on behalf of someone you know who may be struggling.”

Folks seeking more information on food assistance and other resources in our area and statewide can check out vermont211.org.

BTW

(Continued from Page 1A)

If you or someone you know in the Starksboro area is in need of food, please partake in the New Community Project’s Food Share Program. Food is donated by Trader Joe’s, Middlebury Natural Food Co-Op, HOPE and NCP’s own Food Justice Gardens. The food is available at the First Baptist Church of Starksboro at 2806 Route 116 in the village on every Sunday afternoon beginning at 2:30 p.m., year-round. Please arrive by 2:20 p.m. The site is open to all. To learn more, contact NCP at 802-349-2462, or email antosketchamncp@pm.me.

Here’s an upcoming opportunity to learn about changes in Vermont pre-kindergarten-12 education system, and how those changes might affect our local schools, districts, and communities. Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall and chair of the House Education Committee, will speak at Vergennes Union High School on Thursday, Nov. 13, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Conlon plans to share information about Act 73 and the various task forces and committees working on sweeping changes to education coming in the next year and beyond. This will be an opportunity to ask questions about legislation, and to have members of the Addison Northwest School District board and area legislators hear your concerns. For more information, go to tinyurl.com/4w7mpcdn.

Elderly Services recently received the annual “Changemaker Award” from Efficiency Vermont in recognition of the recent “transformational renovation project” at its Jeanette Weinberg Center in Middlebury. The project has improved energy efficiency and the internal environment for Elderly Services program participants. As part of this project, 193 solar panels were installed on five rooftops to generate electricity for the site. Participation in Green Mountain Power’s Flexible Load Management program has also helped reduced power costs. Elderly Services’ electric bill has been cut in half, and propane use — now solely supporting the nonprofit’s commercial range — was reduced by 90%. And to top it off, Elderly Services’ HVAC energy use has been reduced by 70%.

Construction on an 8,000-square-foot addition to Middlebury’s Ilsley Library is taking shape in dramatic fashion behind the original 1924 structure at 75 Main St. “October has definitely had the most visible, above-grade progress to date,” Ilsley Director Dana Hart stated in an email update. She noted workers have completed steel work for the addition — the complete structural framework is now in place. The company Patriot Building Systems has been working on structural exterior walls, building the frames onsite and then installing them. After the exterior walls on the first floor were finished, workers focused on installing cross-laminated timber (CLT) to reinforce the second floor and roof deck. “What a difference walls and floors make! They have turned an open skeleton into something that starts to define space and structure — the qualities that make a building recognizable,” Hart said. “By the beginning of November, all the exterior walls and CLT will be set. Looking ahead, the roofers will be coming in to start work on the insulation and membrane. The goal is to be weather tight by December.”

The Vermont Motorsports Hall of Fame will honor its inaugural Hall of Fame Class of 2025 on Saturday, Dec. 6, and among the inductees will be a person the organization described as “tractor pulling legend” — Gardner Stone of Middlebury. The ceremony will be held at the Vermont SportsCar facility in Milton. In all, nine of “the most influential people in racing with Vermont ties,” and one present-day competitor will be recognized as the 2025 hall’s Racer of the Year. Tickets for the Vermont Motorsports Hall of Fame Class of 2025 induction ceremony are on sale now through Nov. 21; order forms are available at vermontmotorsports.net/halloffame. For more information, find the hall’s official page on Facebook or email vtmotorsportshall@gmail.com.

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ACSD FOOD SERVICE Director Steve Marinelli, shown serving lunch at Middlebury’s Mary Hogan Elementary, is leading other food service workers there in putting out supplemental food boxes for students’ families hit by an interruption in federal SNAP program benefits.

Independent photo/Steve James

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Police allege:

Farmworker tried to murder girlfriend

By MIKE DONOGHUE
Vermont News First

Federal authorities say a Mexican man who was charged in state court with attempted murder and aggravated domestic assault in a strangulation case involving a woman in Addison County in September, is an illegal immigrant and should never have been in the United States.

Vicente De La Cruz-Rodriguez, 28, of New Haven had been removed at least twice by the U.S. Border Patrol in one week in 2022 for being unlawfully in the county and he returned without proper authorization a third time to the United States three years ago, federal court records said.

U.S. Homeland Security became interested in De La Cruz-Rodriguez after Vermont State Police arrested him for trying to kill his girlfriend during an attack the night of Sept. 21-22, court records show.

De La Cruz-Rodriguez pleaded not guilty in Vermont Superior Court to attempted second degree murder and first degree domestic assault for the attack on Mildred Arciga. Arciga told police that De La Cruz-

Vicente De La Cruz-Rodriguez, 28, of New Haven had been removed at least twice by the U.S. Border Patrol in one week in 2022 for being unlawfully in the county and he returned without proper authorization a third time to the United States three years ago.

Rodriguez had used both his hands to wrap around her neck to strangle her.

Arciga said she could smell alcohol on his breath and he appeared to be intoxicated when he began arguing with her about 1 a.m. Sept. 22, State Police Patrol Cpl. Justin Busby said. When asked about her level of pain on a 1 to 10 scale with 10 being severe, she listed it as a 9, Busby wrote.

State Judge David Fenster ordered De La Cruz-Rodriguez held without bail at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility in Rutland, where he remains.

Special agents with Homeland Security Investigations said they interviewed De La Cruz-Rodriguez at the Rutland prison. He freely admitted he had been deported twice and that he was smuggled back into the United States in October 2022 for a fee of about \$5,000, an HSI investigator wrote in court papers. De La Cruz-Rodriguez said he eluded inspection by immigration officers at a proper port of entry in Texas and traveled to Vermont to find work.

De La Cruz-Rodriguez is scheduled to have a "weight of the evidence" hearing on Nov. 6 in his attempted murder and domestic assault case to determine if he should continue to be held without bail.

Even if granted state bail, De La Cruz-Rodriguez would likely be turned over to federal authorities to face his criminal immigration charges.

If convicted in state court he faces a presumptive sentence of 20 years to life in prison for the attempted homicide and up to 15 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine for the aggravated domestic assault charge.

Addison Housing Works raises record \$45,700

BRISTOL—Addison Housing Works (AHW) hosted its annual fundraising event, Home Growing Under the Stars: A Local Celebration for Affordable Housing, on Sept. 19 at the Bristol Town Green. The community event brought together roughly 200 attendees and raised \$45,700, the largest amount raised at an AHW event to date.

Proceeds from Home Growing Under the Stars will support AHW's ongoing efforts to provide and maintain affordable housing throughout Addison County and to offer support services that help residents succeed.

The evening featured live music by Scarlett Annie and the Individuals; food from La Chapina, Tailgate with Kate, Adventure Dinner, and lu•lu Ice Cream;

face painting by Julie Cousino of Handiwork Studio; lawn games; and horse-drawn carriage rides by Driven by Drafts, which showcased one of AHW's affordable housing properties, Firehouse Apartments. Guests also enjoyed a community raffle.

Speakers included AHW Board President David Hamilton, Lauritsen Mobile Home Park resident Everett Lee, AHW Executive Director Elise Shanbacher, and Firehouse Apartments resident Zachary Pittel, who each shared reflections on the importance of affordable housing and community connection.

The event was made possible thanks to the generous support of sponsors. The organization gave a special thank you to Bristol Recreation Department; the town

of Bristol, Shaw's Supermarket of Bristol, Rotary Club of Middlebury, Better Middlebury Partnership and the crew of AHW employees and volunteers who made this event possible.

"We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us and to our sponsors for helping make this year's event such a success," Shanbacher said. "These funds will directly support our mission to create and preserve permanently affordable homes and to strengthen communities throughout Addison County."

To learn more about Addison Housing Works, subscribe to the newsletter at addisonhousingworks.org/subscribe or make a donation at addisonhousingworks.org/donate.

Sheriff's Log

ADDISON COUNTY — An Addison County sheriff's deputy clocked a vehicle going 81 mph in a 50 mph zone in Shoreham on Oct. 28 and cited MD Arman, 25, of Erie, Penn., for excessive speed.

Between Oct. 25 and Nov. 1, sheriff's deputies completed patrols in multiple towns, stopped 56 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations and fingerprinted six people for background checks. Also during that week, Sheriff Michael Elmore attended a five-day course at the Vermont Police Academy in Pittsford to become a Use of Force Instructor.

In other recent activity, Elmore and his deputies also:

- On Oct. 26 transported an intoxicated person from Middlebury to Grace House in Rutland.
- On Oct. 27 checked on a person that was reported to be wandering

around the Leicester school area after hours.

- On Oct. 27 completed two background investigations.
- On Oct. 28 looked into a report of a person experiencing a mental health issue in Orwell.
- On Oct. 29 provided blue lights for a work detail on Riverside Avenue in Burlington.
- On Oct. 29 responded to a report of ATMs dumped in the water at the Slang in Ferrisburgh. Since the machines were related to active cases being handled by Vermont State Police, deputies handed over the scene to the troopers.
- On Oct. 29 assisted state police with a call in Ferrisburgh on Route 7.
- On Oct. 29 in Salisbury arrested Maranda Aunchman on an outstanding warrant.
- On Oct. 29 assisted state police with a traffic stop on Shellhouse

Mountain Road in Ferrisburgh.

- On Oct. 30 escorted two oversized loads from Case Street in Middlebury to the New Hampshire border.
- On Oct. 30 logged a complaint about dogs being left outside in Ferrisburgh and then contacted the owner.
- On Oct. 30 helped out state police with a crash on Route 22A in Orwell.
- On Oct. 31 checked the welfare of a Monkton resident and discovered they were alive and well.
- On Oct. 31 assisted state police in attempting to locate two vehicles involved in a road rage incident in New Haven.
- On Oct. 31 provided blue lights for a road closure on Hollow Road in Ferrisburgh to allow residents to safely trick or treat.

New Perennials to host pamphlet event at college

MIDDLEBURY — New Perennials at Middlebury College is excited to announce the premiere of its second series of Radical Pamphlets. These new pamphlets are written by students and community practitioners including an announcement from the Institute of All Growing Things regarding chaos in our gardens.

"The pamphlet was considered a radical and even subversive means of communication in the 18th and 19th centuries. Pamphlets were the Instagram or X of their day," explained Bill Vitek, director of the New Perennials Project. "Slowing down, putting pen to paper, laying out thoughts and opinions, in today's world, are radical acts. Our work at New Perennials centers around finding and nourishing our roots and relationships where we live, work and learn. These pamphlets express the authors' notions of their connections or longing for connection."

In the spirit of spreading the ideas and opinions of pamphleteers,

New Perennials is hosting a pop-up "Radical Pamphlets Here & Now" event on Nov. 12 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. At Middlebury Campus, McCullough Student Center patio (inside if it's raining).

Come listen to the authors read from and discuss their work. The

event is free and open to all. New Perennials has made its home at Middlebury College since 2018. Its mission is to nourish deep roots in communities and classrooms.

For more, visit: www.newperennials.org or contact Vitek at 802-443-5586.



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State police find impaired drivers in their vehicles

ADDISON COUNTY — An allegation that an Addison woman harmed someone in her household ended with her car in a ditch, two criminal citations and a trip to a Rutland jail.

On Nov. 1 a little before 3 p.m., Vermont State Police logged a report of a domestic assault that took place in Addison. Troopers looked into it and they say they determined that Alexis Betourney, 34, of Addison caused physical pain to a household member.

State police went looking for Betourney and found her after her vehicle was reported in a ditch. When the trooper talked with Betourney they detected indicators of impairment. They took her to the New Haven state police barracks, cited her for second-degree aggravated domestic assault and driving under the influence, and lodged her at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility with bail set at \$1,000.

Betourney wasn't the only driver that state police say got behind the wheel impaired in the past week. Troopers alleged that drivers

on drugs drove on county roads on Halloween in two separate incidents.

Vt. State

Police Log

In the first, troopers stopped a vehicle on Route 7 near Lime Kiln Road in New Haven at about 10 minutes to 3 p.m. on Oct. 31. They screened the driver and cited

Zachary Senesac, 36, of Grand Isle for driving under the influence of drugs. During the arrest, police say they found methamphetamine on Senesac's person, and they cited him for illegal possession of that drug. They took Senesac to Porter Medical Center, where he provided an evidentiary blood sample.

In the second incident that day, just before 10 p.m. state police observed a motor vehicle violation on Greenbush Road near Green Meadow Lane in Ferrisburgh and pulled the vehicle over. Troopers ended up citing Mildred I. Martin, 42, of Middlebury for driving under the influence of drugs and for possession of cocaine. Troopers were assisted by Middlebury police on this case.



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can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 10B, 11B and 15A.

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Per Article 14 of the ACSD Articles of Agreement (revised February 13, 2023), the ACSD Board will be conducting 3 public hearings to solicit input from community members prior to holding a Board vote on whether to close Ripton Elementary School. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony from individuals who wish to share their views, perspectives, or concerns with the Board. Each individual's testimony will be limited to three minutes. Questions that arise during the hearing will be recorded and addressed in a Q&A document that will be posted on the ACSD website and included in meeting materials for the November 24, 2025 Board Meeting.

Virtual attendance will be accommodated with a zoom link for each meeting. Additional information about prior community engagement and the investigation of options for the future of Ripton Elementary School can be accessed on the ACSD website (page 12 of the October 27, 2025 Board meeting materials). Print copies of the October 27, 2025 "Next Chapter for Ripton Elementary School: Report to the ACSD Board" document are also available at the ACSD District Office, 49 Charles Ave., Middlebury, VT. Please contact Board@acsdvt.org for additional questions.

November 10, 2025 @ 5 pm - 6 pm
Middlebury Union High School Library, 73 Charles Ave, Middlebury

November 13, 2025 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Ripton Elementary School, 753 Lincoln Rd, Ripton

November 19, 2025 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Middlebury Union High School Library, 73 Charles Ave, Middlebury

Middlebury Union High School presents

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH - 7PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH - 7PM

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VUHS SENIOR AVA Francis spots her sophomore teammate open just before assisting her for the clinching goal during Saturday's D-III girls' soccer final at Rutland High School.

Independent photo/Steve James

Commodore girls' soccer claims Division III crown

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

RUTLAND — The Vergennes Union High School girls' soccer team has cemented its spot as the best team in program history since the undefeated 2006 Division II championship squad.

In a Division III final vs. No. 8 seed Peoples, played on Saturday at Rutland High School, the No. 2 seed Commodores relied on a gritty teamwide defense, sensational early saves from sophomore goalie Addie Smith, and well-struck goals from senior Ava Francis and sophomore Sophia James.

All that resulted in a 2-0 win that gave Coach Morgan Kathan's team the D-III title and moved the Commodores' record to 17-1.

And there's more to the story behind the scenes, according to the Commodores and their coach — one of a bond among teammates that carried them forward.

Francis talked about why the Commodores were so successful this fall.

"Our communication and our teamwork is a lot better," Francis said. "We all just love each other, and on the field I think it just helps us work better together."

Junior center defender Adrienne Smits fielded the same question.

"We've gotten very close this year compared to my other two years," Smits said. "It's been a great experience, a lot more positivity. I really love this group of girls. I really love all of them."

Kathan, a Ferrisburgh Central School PE teacher in her second year leading the Commodore program, also weighed in on the question. She said she and her athletes alike focused on chemistry and togetherness.

"Last year was a build year. It was let's get the attitudes, let's get the trust, let's believe in each other," she said. "The skills can come after that. So I think we're really grounded, really connected on caring for one another, showing up and showing out for one another, and making sure the result is not for just ourselves to walk away with pride, but that we did enough for everyone around us."

How does it show up on the field?

Smits described how the defense held Peoples (10-7-1), which had defeated No. 1 seed Windsor and No. 4 Fair Haven to reach (See Commodores, Page 3B)

Tiger volleyball nets D2 title

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

COLCHESTER — The top-seeded Middlebury Union High School girls' volleyball team was not to be denied in Sunday's Division II final at St. Michael's College, where the top-seeded Tigers defeated No. 3 Enosburg, three hard-fought sets to none, 25-21, 25-23, and 25-21.

The Tigers never trailed in the first set after taking a 7-6 lead, but had to rally in the final two sets to claim the third-year varsity program's first title. Their trophy was also the first in the growing sport's new Division II.

The Tigers finished at 16-1, and Enosburg wrapped up at 14-3 after reaching Sunday's final with a 3-2 victory on the previous Wednesday over host No. 2 Hartford, (25-20, 23-25, 22-25, 25-22, 15-11).

The Tigers had reached the final by defeating No. 4 Harwood on that Wednesday, 3-1 (25-17, 25-17, 19-25, 25-13), in a home semifinal before a big crowd.

There was a bigger crowd at St. Mike's for the final, and the Tigers didn't disappoint them.

Junior Co-Captain Julia Morrissey said a big factor in winning the final was the Tigers' confidence. Their only loss had come to a D-I Mount Mansfield on Sept. 12, and they had defeated Enosburg on the road this

season, 3-0.

"I think the energy we had coming in from all the games in our season before this (helped)," Morrissey said. "We knew we had a huge chance of getting this, so we were just excited."

And they looked confident on Sunday. For example, when Coach Bethany Morrissey called a timeout in the third set when Enosburg took an early 6-2 lead, the Tigers listened to her in the huddle — several of them while dancing to the pop music played on the PA system.

Coach Morrissey praised her team's determination and belief in its ability.

"Their mindset this evening was like that. When they got down they were more annoyed with themselves than mad. They would just be like, 'What do we need to do? Let's figure it out.' They never got down in a way you couldn't come back from," she said. "That that's our superpower, that they are just resilient. That when another team has a service run, or something like that, they're just like, 'We'll get it back.'"

Junior Co-Captain Ida Blackwell echoed them.

"The mistakes, you've just got to look by them," Blackwell said. (See Volleyball, Page 2B)



SURROUNDED BY HAPPY teammates, Tiger junior captain Ida Blackwell hoists the MUHS volleyball team's championship trophy after Sunday's Division II volleyball final at St. Michael's College.

Independent photo/Steve James

Score BOARD

Football	
Division I Playoffs	
10/30 #1 MUHS vs #8 St. Albans.....	35-6
Division III Playoffs	
11/1 #3 MAV vs #6 Springfield	26-0
Boys' Soccer	
D-II Playoffs	
Final at Burlington HS	
10/31 #6 Milton vs #1 Mt Abe.....	1-0 (OT)
Girls' Soccer	
D-III Playoffs	
10/29 #2 VUHS vs #3 Stowe.....	2-1
Final at Rutland H.S.	
11/1 #2 VUHS vs #8 Peoples.....	2-0
Volleyball	
D-II Playoffs	
10/29 #1 MUHS vs #4 Harwood.....	3-1
Final at St. Mike's	
11/2 #1 MUHS vs #3 Enosburg.....	3-0

COLLEGE SPORTS	
Men's Soccer	
NESCAC Quarterfinal	
11/1 Midd vs Bowdoin.....	2-1
Field Hockey	
NESCAC Quarterfinal	
11/1 Midd vs Bowdoin.....	3-2 (OT)
Women's Soccer	
NESCAC Quarterfinal	
11/1 Midd vs Hamilton.....	2-0
Football	
11/1 Midd vs Hamilton.....	24-21

(See Schedule, Page 2B)

Eagle boys' soccer falls in OT in final

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

BURLINGTON — The finest Mount Abraham boys' soccer season in a dozen years did not end the way the Eagles had hoped.

On a cold, windy and rainy Halloween night on Burlington High School's turf field, No. 6 seed Milton's sophomore forward Killian Choquette scored a breakaway goal two minutes into overtime to give his team a 1-0 victory in the Division II final.

It was Milton's first win in three tries vs. the Eagles this season. Mount Abe had defeated the Yellowjackets twice in the regular season, but it hadn't been easy. The Eagles won at Milton, 2-1 in overtime, and at home, 1-0, in the last game before the playoffs.

For the most part, the goal came against the run of play after halftime. Milton played strong defense and was first to the ball in the first half, when it appeared

the Eagles were having a harder time adjusting to the slick artificial surface. Still, the Eagles held up defensively, and scoring chances were few either way.

But the Eagles came on stronger after the halftime break and outshot the Yellowjackets, 8-3, in the second 40 minutes, including a late save on a Mount Abe penalty kick.

Eagle Coach Chris Coffey acknowledged his team, which (See Eagles, Page 2B)



EAGLE SOPHOMORE WAYDON Cherington shoots at the Milton goal back over his head. It was a good bid, but the shot drifted just over the crossbar during this past Friday's D-II final at Burlington High School.

Independent photo/Steve James

MAV football advances

Will face Bellows Falls in D-III semifinal

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

BRISTOL — In what was the first playoff football game played in Bristol in a dozen years, the No. 3 seed Mount-Abraham Vergennes team blanked visiting No. 6 Springfield on the past Saturday afternoon, 26-0, in a Division III quarterfinal.

The Eagles improved to 8-1 and advanced to a semifinal at No. 2 Bellows Falls, also 8-1, on this Friday at 7 p.m.

If the Eagles can upset the preseason D-III favorite Terriers, they would advance to a final that will be played at South Burlington High on Nov. 15 at a time to be announced.

No. 1 Woodstock (8-1) will host No. 5 Otter Valley (6-3) in the other semifinal. The Otters defeated No. 4 Fairfax/Lamoille, 31-21, on Saturday for their sixth straight victory.

(See MAV, Page 3B)

MUHS football steamrolls St. Albans, heads to semis

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

MIDDLEBURY — The top-seeded Middlebury Union High School football team shrugged off cold and rainy weather and No. 8 St. Albans in a 35-6 Division I quarterfinal win this past Thursday night, Oct. 30.

The Tigers scored all five of their touchdowns on runs of 54 yards or more, and much of the second half was spent with the clock ticking. The Tigers' win improved their record to 8-1, while the Bobwhites wrapped up at 3-6.

The Tigers' semifinal starts at 7 p.m. this Friday; MUHS will

host No.5 Burr & Burton (6-3), a 14-7 overtime winner on Friday over No. 4 Essex (5-4). The Tigers defeated Burr & Burton at home on Oct. 17, 39-23.

The D-I final will be played at South Burlington on Nov. 15 at a time to be announced. The Tigers are seeking their first title since 2014. St. Johnsbury (8-1) and Rutland (6-3), the Nos. 2 and 3 seeds, respectively, will meet in this weekend's other semifinal.

Against the Bobwhites last week, Tucker Wright broke loose for a 93-yard scoring ramble to (See Tigers, Page 3B)



EAGLE SENIOR MIDFIELDER James Graziadei touches the ball past two Milton players during this past Friday's rainy D-II final at Burlington High School.

Independent photo/Steve James

Eagles

(Continued from Page 1B)

finished 15-2-1, didn't have its best night — the game started late after the earlier D-II girls' soccer final went into double overtime — against the scrappy Milton squad, although they improved during the course of the evening.

"The surface played a huge factor for us. Our first touch got better. I thought we were moving the ball a little bit better in the second half," Coffey said. "We still weren't first to the ball like we normally are."

Mainly, Coffey credited Milton (12-6), a young team that got better as the season progressed and reached the final by defeating No. 3 Montpelier in a quarterfinal and No. 2 Harwood in a semifinal.

"Zero excuses. Those guys were incredible," Coffey said. "The first half they beat up on us. They beat us to every ball. They created the chances, and here we are. OT, sudden victory."

Actually, opportunities were rare for both sides in the first half. The Eagle back line of junior Rowan Clark and senior Johnny Stanley in the middle and senior

Evan Corrigan and junior Truman Sawyer on the flanks was solid, as was a Milton defense anchored by senior center back Brock Bushey.

At midfield, the Eagles struggled with their touch in the wind, rain and slick turf, and Milton was penalizing them for not controlling the ball as well as usual. Both teams' best chances came on corner kicks and restarts, and Eagle senior goalie Evan Audy and Milton's Brody Allard handled those challenges, making three relatively routine saves each and coming off their lines to pick off serves into their penalty areas. Both goalies finished with six saves.

The Eagles came out with renewed determination in the second half. After Audy saved another free kick, they stormed the Milton end and fired three close-range shots, all great chances in the half's third minute. But none found the back of the net. The first hit the top of the right post. Allard knocked away the second, and a back, apparently Bushey, blocked the third on the goal line.

Despite their advantage in

possession and shots, again opportunities were few for the Eagles. Sophomore Waydon Cherington might have had the second-best bid, firing just high with a no-look bicycle kick from seven yards with 12 minutes to go.

The best chance? The Eagles were awarded a penalty kick with 4:25 to go. But Allard jumped up to his right to deflect Jaran Griffin's shot up over the crossbar, and overtime was looming.

And on another day under dryer and calmer conditions on a softer surface in that overtime, the Eagle backs probably handle the bouncing through ball to Choquette with relative ease. But the hard surface was wet and slick, and the ball bounced high and fast, and Choquette went in alone. From near the penalty stripe he banged the ball into the net's lower right corner. Audy had no chance. Milton celebrated, and the Eagles hung their heads.

But really they shouldn't. They were the first Mount Abe boys' team since the 2013 team won the D-II title to reach a semifinal, never mind a final. The Eagles won the Lake Division title for the first time since 2013. They ended up outscoring their opponents by 58-8, worked hard, and bonded as a team.

One game should not define their season, Coffey said.

"We got here with focus, discipline, work ethic. These guys showed up for each other every single day. Toughness, all of it," Coffey said. "The road here was awesome. We learned."

Coffey in particular spoke highly of the team's seven seniors: Corrigan, Zealand Jackson, James Graziadei, Stanley, Aidin Hodzic, Maverick Livingston and Audy.

"These seniors have carried us. I've been coaching these kids off and on in multiple sports since they were little," he said. "Incredible group of kids. They've been going up and playing futsal at nine o'clock at night. They've been together and pushing each other for years. It's an incredible group, and I'm really proud of them. It was a fun, fun season to be part of, and I'm just honored I got to coach them and see them every day."



MUHS JUNIOR ADDIE Young bumps an Enosburg shot toward teammate Laila Sunderland, right, during Sunday's Division II championship volleyball match at St. Michael's College.

Independent photo/Steve James

Volleyball

(Continued from Page 1B)

"We worked a lot on our mental toughness this year."

BACK & FORTH

In the opening set the teams traded points early, but a Blackwell kill put the Tigers on top, 7-6. She then went to the service line, and followed an Enosburg miscue with an ace as the Tigers went up by three.

Shortly afterward the lead grew to 13-8, with sophomore Adeline Ritter hitting two aces in a 3-0 run. Enosburg cut the lead to two points twice at 18-16, on an ace by Madison Derosia, and 19-17, on a kill by Addie West. But the Tigers answered with kills by sophomore Willow Heywood and Blackwell, and at match point at 24-21 junior Stella Lenti's kill sealed the first-set victory.

In the second set the Hornets took a 3-1 lead. Despite a quick kill by MUHS junior Kate Kozak, the Tigers were error-prone in the early going. The match was tied at 4-4, 7-7 and 8-8 before the Tigers took the lead for good on a three consecutive kills, one by Ritter and two by Morrissey.

Enosburg fought back to within 17-16 on three straight points, including a West ace.

Again, the Tigers responded. Senior Marilyn Perez made what was arguably the save of the match, racing off the court to keep a deflected ball alive, and sophomore Ginger Riney finished the point with a kill. The Tigers won the next two points with Morrissey serving, and it was 20-16.

The Hornets came closer down the stretch. But Heywood hit a kill, Riney blocked a spike attempt for a point, and at 24-23 an Enosburg foul clinched the set for MUHS.

Then came the final set. The Tigers fell behind, 8-2.

But a kill by senior Laila Sunderland sparked a 6-0 MUHS run, with the next five points coming with Morrissey serving. The surge started with her back-to-back service aces, and Blackwell and Sunderland hit kills before Enosburg's Lexi Gaboriault ended the run with a kill.

Enosburg was not done, and the teams traded points, with the



MUHS SOPHOMORE ADELINE Ritter slams the ball over the net during Sunday's Division II championship volleyball match at St. Michael's College.

Independent photo/Steve James

Hornets leading most of the way, until a Blackwell kill knotted the match at 17-17.

Then the match turned in the Tigers' favor on the day's most dramatic point. The ball went back and forth over the net probably 20 times, with athletes on both sides scrambling to keep the volley alive. It felt like whichever team won the point would win the set.

The Hornets finally blinked with a miscue. Morrissey returned to the service line, and the Tigers ran off the next five points to make it 23-17, with one ace and two more Blackwell kills in the surge.

Two more Gaboriault kills allowed Enosburg to come within 24-21, but their server hit the ball long. The Tigers watched it land out of bounds, and the hugs began as cheers echoed off the rafters.

Julia Morrissey was asked what the team was telling itself when they trailed in third set. "Sometimes the ball just doesn't go our way. But we can always get back up," she said. "And that's what we did."

Statistically, Blackwell finished with a career-high eight kills, adding a block and an ace. Morrissey contributed four aces, six kills and 11 digs. Sunderland came up with five kills and a block, while Lenti, Abby Hamilton and Perez combined for more than 40 digs.

Beyond the day's stats, Julia Morrissey said Sunday's result was long in the making, including the leadership of the seniors who graduated a year ago who were on the ground floor of the program's founding, and the many players who have signed on since then.

"We had a really strong program starting four years ago. So we've got those middle school players having more experience," she said. "And the people we had here before ... having their support coming through has been extremely important."

Blackwell pointed to the program's numbers and its coaching as advantages.

"We have 20 players, and it just

makes such a difference at practice. We're able to do so many drills and just build up the team," Blackwell said. "We have so much motivation, and we have an awesome coach."

How were the players feeling afterward?

"It feels absolutely amazing, like a moment I'll remember the rest of my life," Morrissey said. "And I feel like everyone here feels that way."

"It feels incredible. This is our third year with a varsity team," Blackwell said. "Three years ago we didn't even have a varsity team, so it's, like, mind-blowing. I feel awesome."

How about the coach? "They're a really fun group to coach. I love this team." Coach Morrissey said.

She had one more thought. "I mean, third-year varsity team state champs? We didn't even have volleyball five years ago."

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Football

Division I Playoffs

11/7 #4 Burr&Burton at #1 MUHS... 7 PM

11/15 Final at S. Burlington.....TBA

Division III Playoffs

11/7 #3 MAV at #2 Bellows Falls..... 7 PM

11/15 Final at S. Burlington.....TBA

Men's Soccer

NESCAC Final Four at Tufts

11/8 #1 Tufts vs #6 Midd..... 11 AM

11/8 #2 Wesleyan vs #5 Conn..... 1:30 PM

11/9 Final.....Noon

Field Hockey

NESCAC Final Four at Tufts

11/8 #1 Tufts vs #4 Wesleyan..... 11 AM

11/8 #2 Midd vs #3 Bates..... 1:30 PM

11/9 Final.....Noon

Women's Soccer

NESCAC Final Four at Tufts

11/8 #1 Tufts vs #5 Colby..... 11 AM

11/8 #2 Williams vs #3 Midd..... 1:30 PM

11/9 Final.....Noon

Football

11/8 Tufts at Midd..... 12:30 PM

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Tuesday, November 11:
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3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

Thursday, November 13:
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating
3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

Friday, November 14:
3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

Sunday, November 16:
1:00 - 2:30 PM Public Skating

Tuesday, November 18:
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating
3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

Thursday, November 20:
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating
3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

Friday November 21:
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SOPHOMORE SOPHIA JAMES fires home the late goal that clinches the Commodores' 2-0 win during Saturday's D-III girls' soccer final at Rutland High School.

Independent photo/Steve James



SENIOR DEFENDER FAITH McCallister battles a Peoples player for the ball on the left flank during Saturday's D-III girls' soccer final at Rutland High School.

Independent photo/Steve James

Commodores

(Continued from Page 1B)

Saturday's final, off the board. "We've been working a lot on mindset and making sure we're giving it our all. Today was our last game, and we might as well not leave anything in the bank, and make sure we're working as a team and communicating," Smits said. "As long as we keep talking, we'll be fine."

Against Peoples and in their nail-biting semifinal win over Stowe three days earlier (see story in this section), Smits was joined at center back by senior Amelia Giroux, on the left flank by senior Faith McCallister (a middle filling in well for injured junior Ella Romond) and on the right by senior Octavia Devine, with freshman Reese Muzzy also seeing time there.

Peoples carried more of the possession during the game, and the Commodores also had to rely on their flank middies — freshman Ayla Kittredge and junior Isabelle Van Voorst saw most of the time there — and central middies Ashtin Stearns, a senior, and junior Eva Borah to help defensively.

Kathan addressed the team-wide commitment to defense.

"We knew it was going to be a battle. They're very physical and use the outside mids very well. So we were prepared to have everybody track back and help out and do what they had to do today," she said. "It was a huge team effort to make sure we didn't leave any gaps and give them any opportunities. Our goalie, Addie Smith, had a fantastic game today. She was very strong in the first couple minutes there when it looked very nerve-wracking."

Francis also talked about her teammates in the back.

"They are just some amazing individuals. They each have their own strengths, and I think that together makes them unstoppable," Francis said. "There were some close calls, but we knew we couldn't let them score, and they got it done."

Peoples started quickly. In the first minute Fern Dobson launched a shot from the top left of the

VUHS box that Smith jumped up and back to deflect off the bottom of the crossbar before scrambling to stop the ball from rolling into the goal.

Shortly afterward the Commodores had a chance in a goalmouth scramble caused by a Stearns direct kick, but Peoples cleared.

Then Smith made back-to-back saves off Ramsey Davis in the 13th and 14th minutes, the first by snaring a shot from the top of the box cleanly, and the second by again jumping up to deflect a shot off the bottom of the crossbar. Those early stops were three of the toughest of her 12 saves.

"She is really incredible," Smits said. "I don't know what we would do without her. I'm so excited to play one more year with her."

With 22:20 on the clock the Commodores took the lead. James sent Francis into the left side of the box. Francis raced past the first line of defense and ripped a shot on keeper Sophie LaRock. LaRock blocked it, but the ball bounced back toward Francis, who beat two more defenders to the ball and banded it into the net.

Francis described the play.

"Sophia ... had a perfect ball. The adrenaline's running. I took a touch by the girl, and I knew I had a bad angle, but I took the shot, and she had a great save, but I was right there to finish it off," she said.

Francis scored in every game this season, and finished with 68 goals for her career, second all-time at VUHS behind Abby Benton's 75.

By now, the defense had settled in, and Smith's saves were easier. Peoples started serving into the box from distance, and Smith made a living coming off her line picking off crosses and through balls. Nor did VUHS threaten at other end before the break, and it was 1-0 at halftime.

The Commodores earned three corner kicks in the first 10 minutes of the second half, but Peoples defended well. A better chance came on a Francis serve from the right side 18 minutes in, but Van

Voorst couldn't connect with it at the far post.

Peoples' best chance came with 19 minutes to go. Smith dove to stop a shot from the right side of the box, and couldn't hang onto the ball. But Kittredge was first to the rebound and cleared the ball away.

Lightning struck for VUHS with 7:06 remaining. Francis picked up a ball about 40 yards out from goal as James made a run toward the box's right side. Francis threaded a pass that caught her teammate in stride, and James struck a blast into the upper far side of the net. Peoples was in trouble.

"I saw Soph in the corner of my eye, so I gave her a pass," Francis said. "She had an amazing shot, and after that we knew we had it."

Kathan talked about how critical the Commodores' finishing was on Saturday.

"I think we had technically four opportunities, and turned two of them into a goal," Kathan said. "You give the ball to a 68-goal scorer, 38 of them now this year, and she's going to make some magic, right? And Sophia James coming with that at the end just to make sure that we cap it off was fantastic. What a strike."

Kathan said she was happy for the team and its many supporters.

"I'm thrilled, and we're going to hope the connectivity continues, because it's a great program, and a great group of kids and a great community," she said.

Francis described how she felt.

"It feels amazing to represent our community, our team, our school, everything," she said.

Francis, Stearns, McCallister, Devine, Libby Ringer and Giroux are the team's seniors. Smits admitted to mixed feelings when asked how she felt about winning a championship.

"It's truly amazing," Smits said. "I'm really sad I won't be playing with six of these amazing players after this year. I'm really going to miss them next year. But it really was a great experience playing with all of them this year."

Vergennes girls edge Stowe to reach soccer final

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The No. 2 seed Vergennes Union High School girls' soccer team struck first and last against visiting No. 3 Stowe in Oct. 29's tense Division III semifinal, and the Commodores came away with a 2-1 victory.

Senior Ava Francis scored both goals, the second on the rebound of a blast from sophomore Sophia James, as the Commodores improved to 16-1. The Raiders wrapped up at 12-4.

The Commodores met No. 8 Peoples (10-6-1) in the final on Saturday at Rutland High School; see story on Page 1B.

VUHS Coach Morgan Kathan said the Commodores were expecting a challenge from a skilled Stowe squad that played a difficult schedule, and they got it.

"We knew we weren't getting out of here without goals (against) today," Kathan said. "We had to find a way to get more, right?"

And while the defense — seniors Faith McCallister and Octavia Devine started on the flanks with sophomore Ella Romond injured, and senior Amelia Giroux and junior Adrienne Smits played in the middle — Francis found that way, as Kathan said she has all year.

"We've got an offensive player of the year," Kathan said. "She's scored in every single game this season."

The Commodores started strong, using a full-field defensive effort

to disrupt the Raiders' possession game and pressure their defense. Senior Ashtin Stearns, junior Eva Borah and freshman Ayla Kittredge were effective defensively, and Kittredge was a threat on the right side on the attack, as was junior Isabelle Van Voorst on the left.

The territory the Commodores earned paid off 16 minutes in, when Francis stepped into a loose ball about 30 yards out and laced it into the upper right corner.

But Stowe's depth began to wear down the Commodores. Sophomore goalie Addie Smith (seven saves) made an outstanding reaction stop on Jordan Zimmerman's one-timer from the penalty stripe in the 29th minute, snatching a ball hit just over her head.

But the Commodores had the best chance late in the half's final 11 minutes. Francis sent junior Megan Willis in on goal, but Stowe keeper Tanner Gregory raced out to make a kick save. It was the best of her seven stops.

Stowe ratcheted up its pressure in the second half and tested the VUHS defense repeatedly. The Commodores were fortunate when Raider India Freund shot high on a breakaway in the 11th minute, and their back line snuffed out other near breakaways.

But not all of them. Twenty minutes in, Stowe sent in Lili Stabach alone on Smith, and she picked the lower right corner from near the penalty stripe. The game

was tied, the Commodores looked tired, and it appeared the Raiders had the momentum.

But only for about 12 minutes. The Commodores sent James down the right side. She touched the ball around a defender at the top right of the Stowe box, took another touch toward goal, and fired a bullet on net. Gregory parried the shot, but the ball bounced toward the far side of the goal about five yards from the end line.

And there was Francis, alone. Maybe the Stowe coaches could have focused less on the officiating and more time on reminding their players to mark the senior with more than 60 career goals — Francis tapped home what was probably the easiest game-winner of her career with 7:42 to go.

"That second goal, she knows what to do, she knows where to be," Kathan said, who also credited James' effort on the play.

Smits made one more defensive stop as time wore down. Smith added a routine save, and then it was time to celebrate a trip to the final.

Kathan looked briefly ahead to the final hurdle.

"We talked about this was like a championship game. That team is strong. They're so good. It was a tall task if we could take them down," Kathan said. "And if we could, that meant Saturday we're going to show up and play hard and try to walk away with it."



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MAV

(Continued from Page 1B)

On this past Saturday, Springfield limited the Eagles to a 6-0 halftime lead, but ultimately couldn't contain the Eagles'

rushing attack as MAV rushed for 341 yards. Cole Gagnon rushed for 257 yards and three touchdowns, and Clark Crary added 10 for 84 yards and the other Eagle score.

Crory also completed one of three passes for five yards.

Springfield wrapped up its season at 5-4.

Tigers

(Continued from Page 1B)

open the MUHS onslaught, and then Jason Sperry scored on a 66-yard run. After Logan McNulty reached the end zone from 54 yards, Sperry added a 69-yard scoring burst before halftime, and

it was 28-0 at the break. Wright's 60-yard touchdown run early in the second half started the clock running fulltime.

Sperry finished with 187 yards on five carries, Wright ran eight times for 154 yards, and McNulty

picked up 77 yards on eight attempts.

Jonas Wagner scored for the Bobwhites and finished with 40 yards on 12 carries, and Porter Sweeney led St. Albans with 90 yards on 21 attempts.

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Abby Hamilton	DS	Sophomore
Willow Heywood	Middle	Sophomore
Thea Jackson	DS	Junior
Kate Kozak	Hitter	Junior
Tenny Laroche*	DS	Junior
Stella Lenti	Hitter/DS	Junior
Morgan McNulty	Setter	Freshman
Julia Morrissey*	Setter	Junior
Marilyn Perez	Libero	Senior
Adeline Ritter	Hitter	Sophomore
Ginger Riney	Middle	Sophomore
Grace Ritter	Hitter	Senior
Laila Sunderland	Middle	Senior
Millie Tenny	RS/S	Freshman
Alix Williams	DS	Senior
Anna Wolosinski*	Hitter	Senior
Addie Young	Setter	Junior

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2025 Division III Girls' Soccer

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- | | |
|---------------------|----|
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| Ava Francis | 12 |
| Amelia Giroux | 12 |
| Faith McAllister | 12 |
| Libby Ringer | 12 |
| Ashtin Stearns* | 12 |
| Eva Borah | 11 |
| Ella Romond | 11 |
| Adrienne Smits* | 11 |
| Isabelle Van Voorst | 11 |
| Megan Willis | 11 |
| Lauren Husk | 10 |
| Sophia James | 10 |
| Adeline Smith | 10 |
| Ayla Kittredge | 9 |
| Ella Maneen | 9 |
| Reese Muzzy | 9 |
- *denotes captain

Head Coach: Morgan Kathan
 Assistant Coach: Cole Wilhelm
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Independent photo/Steve James

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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

community calendar

nov 6 THURSDAY
ASL Club in Brandon. Thursday, Nov. 6, and weekly on Thursdays, 4-5 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Collaborative American Sign Language learning using video tutorials. Free.

nov 7 FRIDAY
Bridport Central School Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle in Bridport. Friday, Nov. 7, 5 p.m., Bridport Central School, 3442 Route 22A. Support students' yearlong STEM unit with a basket raffle and eat-in or take-out spaghetti dinner. Basket raffle drawing starts at 6:30 p.m.

nov 8 SATURDAY
Monthly Wildlife Walk in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 8, 8-10 a.m., Otter View Park, intersection of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust lead a survey of birds and other wildlife. Meet at the parking area. Free, birders of all ages and abilities welcome. More info at 802-388-6019.

Holiday Bazaar in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 30 North Pleasant St. Stock up on holiday goodies at the church's 101st annual market, which features handmade crafts, jewelry, games, toys, books, plants, pies, soup, jam, a quilt raffle and more. Free admission. Entrances at 30 North Pleasant St. and under the Seymour St. portico.

Rutland County Audubon bird seed sale in Brandon. Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Brandon Blue Seal, 57 Alta Woods. Stock up on seed for backyard birds. Proceeds support Rutland County Audubon and scholarships for local high school students who plan to study the environment.

Clean out the closet sale in Vergennes. Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. St. Peter's Resale Closet is clearing inventory with a take-what-you-want, pay-what-you-can sale. Gently used clothing, household goods, books and more. Proceeds support St. Peter's community charity partners.

Live music in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Enjoy soulful originals and expressive acoustic covers from singer-songwriter Melissa D, plus local craft vendors and a raffle supporting the summer music program.

November Crafters Market in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 8, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Start your holiday shopping early and support local crafters, small businesses and farmers. Hosted by the Middlebury Farmers Market.

11th Annual Artisan Fair in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., The Residence at Otter Creek, 350 Lodge Rd. Shop holiday gifts including pottery, ornaments, felted mittens, bird paintings, keepsake boxes, jewelry, cards, scarves, candles, honey, cider blends in birch bark carriers and more. Free and open to the public.

Fiber Arts Circle in Vergennes. Saturday, Nov. 8, 12-2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Bixby's Fiber Arts Circle every other Saturday. Bring a work-in-progress or use yarn and knit/crochet kits from the Library of Things. All experience levels and ages welcome. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

Cuss and Cut Block Printing in Brandon. Saturday, Nov. 8, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Learn linoleum block printing and let the profanities fly as you create. Ages 18 and up, no experience necessary. Spots are limited, please email info@brandonpubliclibrary.org to register.

Bingo at St. Peter's Church in Vergennes. Saturday, Nov. 8, doors open 5 p.m., games 6 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Family-friendly bingo with cash prizes, 50/50 raffle and refreshments. Sponsored by the St. Peter's Cemetery Committee to benefit cemetery improvements.

Takeout only ham supper in Vergennes. Saturday, Nov. 8, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, Main Street, Vergennes, (across from the Vergennes Opera House). Menu: ham, mashed sweet potato, green beans, roll and dessert. Adults \$12. Take out preorder only. Must place order by 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6. To order call 802-877-3150.

Brandon Has Talent in Brandon. Saturday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square. Community talent showcase featuring music, dance, and comedy acts. Admission by donation. More info at brandontownhall.com.

nov 9 SUNDAY
Masons' charity fundraising breakfast in Bristol. Sunday, Nov. 9, 7:30-10 a.m., Libanus Lodge, corner of North & Elm streets. Monthly community breakfast. Proceeds benefit a person or group in need in the Five Town Area. Homemade corned beef hash, apple bread pudding, bacon, sausage patties and links, home fries, pancakes, French toast with Vt. maple syrup and Cabot butter, coffee from Vermont Coffee Company. \$9 adults, \$5 under 12.

Breakfast buffet in Vergennes. Sunday, Nov. 9, 8-10 a.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Menu includes omelets, scrambled eggs, French toast, plain and blueberry pancakes with maple syrup, sausage gravy on biscuits, cornbread, home fries and mini muffins. Juice, tea and coffee available. \$13 adults, \$8 children 8-12; under 8 free. Sponsored by the Vergennes Council of the Knights of Columbus.

110th anniversary of the Ethan and Mary Baker Allen Chapter House in Cornwall. Sunday, Nov. 9, 1-4 p.m. Mary Baker Allen Chapter House, 2706 Route 30. Celebrate the history of the DAR chapter house with cake and shared memories. Free.

Stories from Jerusalem Schoolhouse in Starksboro. Sunday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m., Jerusalem Schoolhouse, 397 Jerusalem Rd., South Starksboro (behind Jerusalem Country Store off Route 17). Learn about the 1874 one-room



Craft fairs galore
TIS THE SEASON for craft markets across Addison County. This Saturday, shop handmade treasures at the November Crafters Market at the Middlebury VFW, the 11th Annual Artisan Fair at The Residence at Otter Creek and the Congregational Church of Middlebury Holiday Bazaar, now in its 101st year.

Photo from Congregational Church of Middlebury archives

schoolhouse and preview plans to transform it into an all-access, year-round community center. More info at 802-453-8447.

nov 10 MONDAY
American Red Cross blood drive in Middlebury. Monday, Nov. 10, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Middlebury EMS Building, 55 Collins Dr. See Nov. 4 listing.

Conservation Speed Dating in Ferrisburgh. Monday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall. Farmers meet 1:1 with the Vermont Land Trust and The Bobolink Project to explore wildlife-friendly management across working lands. Free; lunch provided. Space is limited. Apply at vlt.org/events/conservation-speed-dating. More info at sam@vlt.org, 781-259-2119.

Cribbage Night in Bristol. Monday, Nov. 10, 7-8:15 p.m., Libanus Lodge, corner of North St. & Elm St. All ages cribbage night hosted by the Masons of Libanus Lodge.

nov 11 TUESDAY
Bixby Book Club in Vergennes. Tuesday, Nov. 11, 6-7 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. November's selection is "The Girl with the Louding Voice" by Abi Daré. All readers are welcome. Copies available at the circulation desk or by emailing martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org. Free.

nov 12 WEDNESDAY
Grief Group with La Dimora in Brandon. Wednesday, Nov. 12, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Support group gathering with end-of-life doula Becki Lund of La Dimora for people navigating any kind of grief. Free.

"Screenagers" film showing and discussion in Vergennes. Wednesday, Nov. 12, 5:30 p.m., Vergennes Union High School, 50 Monkton Road. Families are invited to watch "Screenagers" and join a panel discussion on growing up in the digital age. Childcare available with RSVP by Nov. 7. RSVP at tinyurl.com/ScreenagersVergennes.

Bill McKibben talk in Middlebury. Wednesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. The noted author and activist will speak about his new book, "Here Comes the Sun," and the power of local environmental work. This free community gathering supports Energy Navigators, an initiative of the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County. More info at ceacac.org.

nov 13 THURSDAY
Otter Creek Audubon Society annual meeting and talk in Middlebury. Thursday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Annual business meeting plus a special talk by author and cartoonist Rosemary Mosco, who will discuss what common and overlooked birds can teach us. OCAS will also present its Silver Feather Award to Will and Carolyn Jackson. Free, doors open at 6:30 p.m. More info at ottercreekaudubon.org.

"Newsies" in Middlebury. Thursday, Nov. 13, 7-9 p.m., Middlebury Union High School Auditorium, 73 Charles Ave. This year's MUHS fall musical tells the story of NYC newsboys who go on strike when Joseph Pulitzer raises newspaper prices. \$11 for adults, \$6 for students and seniors. Tickets available at gofan.co/app/school/VT15095.

nov 14 FRIDAY
"What Works Now" lunch panel in Middlebury. Friday, Nov. 14, noon, McCardell Bicentennial Hall Room 216, Bicentennial Way, Middlebury College. Join Middlebury College students and alumni to discuss student-led climate action at Middlebury past and present. Part of the "What Works Now: Climate Action at Middlebury and Beyond" conference. More info at tinyurl.com/WhatWorksNowMiddlebury.

"Newsies" in Middlebury. Friday, Nov. 14, 7-9 p.m., Middlebury Union High School Auditorium, 73 Charles Ave. See Nov. 13 listing.

"What Works Now" keynote in Middlebury. Friday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m., Wilson Hall, McCullough Student Center, 14 Old Chapel Road, Middlebury College. Join 350.org co-founder Jamie Henn,

Middlebury '07, and Middlebury College President Ian Baucom as they discuss the role of students and alumni in climate action. Part of the "What Works Now: Climate Action at Middlebury and Beyond" conference. More info at tinyurl.com/WhatWorksNowMiddlebury.

nov 15 SATURDAY
Breakfast at the Shoreham Congregational Church in Shoreham. Saturday, Nov. 15, 8:30-10 a.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School St. Enjoy plain or blueberry pancakes or French toast with Vermont maple syrup, plus sausages, home fries, quiches, beverages and more. Please bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the food shelf. \$12 adults, \$6 children, \$30 families.

"What Works Now" breakout session in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m., McCardell Bicentennial Hall Rooms 216, 219 and 305, Bicentennial Way, Middlebury College. Discuss the history of student-led climate action at Middlebury. Part of the "What Works Now: Climate Action at Middlebury and Beyond" conference. More info at tinyurl.com/WhatWorksNowMiddlebury.

Story Time with Ashley Wolff in Vergennes. Saturday, Nov. 15, 10:30 a.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Beloved children's book author, illustrator and local artist Ashley Wolff leads a special story time. Hosted by Addison County Readers. More info at shelby.gagne@bixbylibrary.org, 802-989-9539.

Annual puzzle swap in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 15, 11 a.m., Mini Ilsley Public Library Community Room, National Bank of Middlebury, 30 Main St. Bring complete puzzles to swap at this community event. Puzzle donations accepted through Nov. 8. Free. More info at renee.ursitti@ilsleypubliclibrary.org, 802-388-4095.

"What Works Now" closing lunch in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 15, noon, Atwater Dining Hall, 99 Shannon St., Middlebury College. Join the community to synthesize lessons, insights and next steps from the What Works Now: Climate Action Conference. tinyurl.com/WhatWorksNowMiddlebury.

Fall Candle-Making in Vergennes. Saturday, Nov. 15, noon-2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Celebrate autumn with a candle-making workshop. Choose scents and colors, design a custom jar, and take home your own candle. Space is limited. RSVP to miranda.degreennia@bixbylibrary.org. Free.

Dance marathon in Lincoln. Saturday, Nov. 15, 1 p.m.-1 a.m. Ron Simonsen Theater, Zeno Mountain Road. Zeno Mountain Farm will hold its 8th annual Dance Marathon in their renovated barn-turned-theater. The space will be filled with dancers, live music, great food, costumes, and roller skating. This year the theme is "rock and roll." The money raised will support their programming for the upcoming year. Vermont musicians donate their talents for 12 hours of live bands, and DJs. Open to anyone and everyone. More information at fundraiser.givesmart.com/aahyTg?vid=1m92sr.

"Newsies" in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 15, 2-4 p.m., Middlebury Union High School Auditorium, 73 Charles Ave. See Nov. 13 listing.

nov 16 SUNDAY
Fiddlers Jam in Middlebury. Sunday, Nov. 16, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Enjoy a hearty lunch at noon, music with Joe and Jackie Rivers from 1-4 p.m., and two or more \$50 raffles. \$10 Fiddler members, \$25 non-members, \$5 children, \$3 if you don't want to eat but just want to listen to music. Call 802-352-4489 to reserve a ticket by Nov. 7.

nov 19 WEDNESDAY
Brush Hour in Brandon. Wednesday, Nov. 19, Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. See Nov. 5 listing.

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ACCEPTING EFFICIENCY VERMONT'S Changemaker Award at the organization's Best Practices Exchange recently are Elderly Services Inc. Executive Director Kristin Bolton (second from left) and ESI Project Manager Andrew Munkres. Presenting the award for the huge makeover of the Weinberg Center are, left, Efficiency Vermont Managing Director Peter Walke and, right, lead engineering consultant Matt Sharpe and senior engineering consultant Tim Carr.

Elderly Services nets energy savings

KILLINGTON — Elderly Services Inc. earlier this fall was honored by Efficiency Vermont for the forward-thinking upgrades to its headquarters building in Middlebury.

The award was bestowed at the Killington Grand Resort Hotel during Best Practices Exchange (BPX), Efficiency Vermont's annual gathering of the state's largest commercial and industrial operators and businesses. The event honored six "Energy Leadership" award winners in areas ranging from decarbonization to innovation to partner of the year.

Elderly Services was one of six organizations honored with "Energy Leadership" awards for industry-leading projects supporting energy efficiency. Specifically, it got the Changemaker Award. Updating a 20-year-old building to reflect values of energy efficiency and environmental stewardship, Elderly Services implemented extensive weatherization and installed a new ground-source heat pump system, reducing its HVAC energy use by 70%, Efficiency Vermont said in bestowing the award. Nearly 200 solar panels generate the facility's electricity. Combined with participation in Green Mountain Power's Flexible Load Management program, Elderly Services was able to cut its electric bill in half and reduce propane use by 90%.

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elderly Services was designed to feel like home. On the outside, it looks like a very large, old Vermont farmhouse with an attached red barn. On the inside is a state-of-the-art adult day care facility that is completely accessible. Elderly Services wants to be part of a revolution to help people to grow old with dignity, pleasure, community, and a sense of purpose.

Every aspect of the Elderly Services building has been created for comfort and safety. To address a variety of issues with its 20-year-old building and to make investments that reflect their values of energy efficiency and environmental stewardship, Elderly Services completed a transformational project. The project aimed to make the facility more energy efficient, improve air quality for participants, and significantly reduce expenses over time.

To accomplish this, they started with an electrification assessment which included blower door testing to inform energy modeling and HVAC replacement options. This assessment found substantial air bypasses through the attics, windows and walls. They were able to address these issues by air sealing sheathing and roof decking and installing additional insulation under a new roof and new siding.

These measures reduced air infiltration by 80%. New ground source heat pumps were installed and geothermal wells were drilled to replace an existing propane boiler, aging chiller and fan coil units, resulting in an estimated 70% reduction in HVAC energy use.

Finally, 193 solar panels were installed on five rooftops to generate electricity for the site. Participation in Green Mountain Power's Flexible Load Management program has also helped reduced electric costs. Their electric bill has been cut in half and propane use, now solely supporting their commercial range, was reduced by 90%.

The project was supported in part by the Vermont Agency of Human Services Home and Community Based Services Grant Opportunity, which was funded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

"It's a challenging time to prioritize energy-saving projects," said Peter Walke, Efficiency Vermont's managing director, at BPX. "Facing rising costs and unpredictable policies, we're committed to helping businesses with projects that keep operating costs low and reduce energy use." Walke stressed Efficiency Vermont's support as an "energy co-champion" on such projects through technical expertise and



Music camp campaign launched

Aimed to preserve Point CounterPoint

LEICESTER — The Point CounterPoint Foundation (pointcp.com/forward), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization tasked with raising the necessary funds to purchase the 63-year-old, world-renowned music camp Point CounterPoint on Lake Dunmore, has announced the launch of a \$3.5 million capital campaign to accomplish its objective.

The campaign, "Play It Forward: For the Love of PCP (Point Counterpoint)," seeks to raise the necessary funds to purchase the property and also establish an endowment to fund ongoing scholarships. At the conclusion of this multi-year campaign, Point CounterPoint will be under the ownership of the nonprofit foundation and governed by a board of trustees.

This will represent a significant change in the camp's history. Unlike many comparable music camps initially established as charitable foundations, Point CounterPoint has been privately owned since its inception. Founded in 1963 by Edwin and Helen Finckel, the

property belonged to a succession of professional musician couples: Diana and Emory Fanning (1980-1988), and Margaret and Paul Roby (1989-2006). Soon thereafter Jenny Beck and her husband, Steve, purchased the camp and continued to run it.

As the Becks contemplated retirement, they entertained options including selling the camp to another musician family or selling the property outright.

"After talking with business brokers and real estate professionals, I was concerned that the property might end up being home to large lakeside vacation houses and everything that the camp has accomplished and stood for could be lost," Jenny Beck explained.

To the Becks, the foundation seemed the most promising solution. When the foundation purchases the property, it will ensure that the camp continues to run and follow its mission as its camp has for 63 years. Jenny Beck will continue to run the camp until the purchase is completed.

Since 1963, more than 5,000 musicians have been shaped by Point CounterPoint's unique

blend of chamber music training, community living, and the natural beauty of Vermont's Green Mountains. Campers of all ages have flourished under the guidance of world-class faculty while forging lifelong friendships and a deep connection to music.

"With Jenny Beck's blessing, we have established the Point CounterPoint Foundation, whose goal is to guarantee that PCP's future is safe and secure for generations to come," said Philip Boulanger, president of the foundation's board. "Our campaign will remove the risks and uncertainties of private ownership and safeguard this magical place that has become such a cornerstone in so many young musicians' lives."

Beck, who has owned and directed the camp for the past 18 years, added: "Point CounterPoint has been my life's work and greatest joy. I've seen thousands of campers grow as musicians and as people in this extraordinary place. The foundation gives me confidence that PCP will flourish long after my tenure, preserving its mission and spirit for future generations."

The foundation invites alumni, families, faculty and friends of the camp to contribute — through direct gifts, donor-advised funds, stock transfers, online giving, or legacy commitments. All contributions raised in the campaign will go directly to the Point CounterPoint Foundation.

financial incentives — like up to an additional \$25,000 in extra incentives for businesses that complete custom projects by November 2026.

Investments made in 2024

by commercial and industrial customers with Efficiency Vermont's support will, over their lifetime, save more than 521 million kWh — enough electricity to power more than 3,800 Vermont

homes for 20 years, Efficiency Vermont said. Those investments will also save the energy equivalent of more than 4 million gallons of propane and oil.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Vergennes Union High School

Nilah Fitzgerald

We're proud to announce that Nilah Fitzgerald is Vergennes Union High School's latest Student of the Week. Nilah splits her time with her dad and dog in Addison and with her mom, brother and stepdad in Vergennes. She likes living in both places, enjoying the closeness of Vergennes and the openness of Addison.

Nilah likes the small sizes of her classes at VUHS. Her favorite class was Humanities. She really enjoyed the discussions with her classmates. She also loved researching music and why it is a universal language, noting that presenting her research to the community was a highlight.

Nilah has been on the Honor Roll for all semesters in high school. Each year, she has also received an award of recognition from one of her teachers. Last year, Nilah received the Xerox Innovation Award through the University of Rochester.

Outside of academics, Nilah played soccer through 11th grade and will play lacrosse in the spring. She has been a member of the Green Team for all four years of high school, and was inducted into the National Honor Society last year. The blood drive that the NHS sponsors has been a highlight because it brings the community together to help others.

In the summers, she works at Camp Kookamunga spending the day at Memorial Sports Center in Middlebury and taking the campers on field trips each week. She loves connecting with the kids. Outside of school, Nilah likes to ski, play piano and spend time with her family and dog.

Nilah's advice to younger students is to not worry so much about the "what ifs." "I have learned that if I can stop myself from thinking about what could be, I will surprise myself with what I can do."

Next year, Nilah will be attending Montana State University with a major in Earth Science. She is looking forward to exploring the outdoors and spending time with family that lives nearby, stating, "I fell in love with Montana when I was little, so I have known that I would want to spend time out there. I want to thank my parents for giving me so many opportunities to be myself." We wish Nilah all the best!



Nilah Fitzgerald
VUHS

Middlebury Union High School

Maya Breckenridge

Maya Breckenridge, the daughter of Kimberly and Matthew Breckenridge, is Middlebury Union High School's latest student of the week. Maya lives with her parents and younger brother, Max, who is a 10th-grader at MUHS. The family resides in Cornwall with their labradoodle, Luke.

Maya says she loves coming to school because she is very involved with clubs and it is a great way to start her morning. Her favorite class is ESS (Environmental Systems and Societies) where they are discussing food and its impact on the environment. She has really appreciated Mr. Krahn as he has pushed her to become a better writer and says that Mr. Crodelle has been a great advisor because he is able to make school feel not so stressful.

Maya has been on honor roll all four years and is a candidate for the International Baccalaureate Diploma. She was awarded the Clarkson University Leadership and Achievement Award during her junior year, and also attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) leadership conference. Maya is currently a Coordinator in the Peer Leader program that works with ninth-graders as they settle into their places at MUHS this fall. Additionally, she is a member of the Student Coalition on Human Rights (SCOHR); a member of MiddMinds, a club focusing on mental health; and is the President of Student Council.

Outside of school, Maya is very busy. She volunteers at Porter Hospital as a greeter. In addition to volunteering, Maya works two jobs. She is a barista at Otter Creek Bakery and caters at Middlebury College. In the fall, Maya was the Captain of the field hockey team and plans to play tennis this spring. When not working on schoolwork, volunteering or playing sports, Maya enjoys spending time with friends and family playing lots of board games and enjoying lots of movie nights.

When asked for her advice for younger students at MUHS, Maya encouraged students to get out of their comfort zone and take positive risks. Maya stated, "I used to not be very outgoing but being involved in clubs and activities built my confidence to take on IB and speak up in class."

Maya is planning on continuing her studies next year at a college somewhere most likely in the Northeast. She plans to major in biology and hopes to pursue a career in the medical field. We at MUHS wish Maya the best for the rest of her senior year and the years to come.



Maya Breckenridge
MUHS

CONGRATULATIONS NILAH!
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Congratulations,
Nilah and Maya

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Help Wanted

PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT Wanted to help 77 year old man in Addison on Saturdays and Sundays for 3-4 hours a day. Help with cooking, housework, and chores. \$25 an hour. Contact ellenresnik@gmail.com

Help Wanted

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Help Wanted

directions; Team-oriented with good communication skills; Able to stand, bend, and lift throughout the shift; No sensitivities to fragrances or aromas. We offer a supportive, safety-focused environment with opportunities to learn and grow. Apply today! Send your resume to tna_hr@ap.tataharper.co

Free

DIGITAL ACCESS View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at addisonindependent.com. Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

For Sale

2011 38' CAMPER needs little work. \$6500, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

ENCORE WOOD STOVE porcelain green with glass door. \$1200 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

FIREWOOD STOVE in excellent shape. \$1800 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918

BEAUTIFUL 2 BEDROOM HOUSE Newly renovated 1860's farmhouse in Shoreham. Furnished and available November. \$2100/month plus some utilities. Non-smoking and no pets please. Call/email for photos. 802-236-8721 hescoc@sover.net

For Rent

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR RENT Located in Historic Downtown Vergennes. Furnished, all utilities included \$2600/month. Pet friendly. No smoking. Call for info. and photos. 802-922-1924



ALL REAL ESTATE advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

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For Rent

BRANDON ESTATE 5 Bedrooms 3 bath \$4800 Furnished See Craigslist at <https://vermont.craigslist.org/apa/d/forest-dale-bedroom-updated-stone-home/7889936398.htm> or call 802 377 9394

BRISTOL: Active retiree who enjoys walking, gardening, cooking for friends is seeking housemate to share conversation, meals, and to provide some light household assistance. \$400/month. A gentle dog would be considered! Familiarity with memory loss is a plus but not a must. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 2000 sq ft to 7000 sq ft - Tall ceilings, loading docks, plenty of parking. Middlebury - 802-558-6092

EAST MIDDLEBURY APARTMENT 3 Bedroom Apartment, with office: \$2500 per month. Heat - Water - Trash - Lawn Mowing included in the rent. You pay Electricity. Washer and Dryer in Unit Off street parking. (3 spaces) 1st Month Rent and security deposit can be paid in installments, no smoking, quiet pets possible upon approval. Available on November 15th. Text (802) 349-7464

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Teen Center is looking for volunteers to cook for the center. Teens eat A LOT, so we are always in need of cooks! Food prep can happen in our kitchen, or at your home with our ingredients. If you would like to cook for us once or weekly, please email lindsey@teencentervt.org.

the **TEEN** CENTER

In print or online, find your dream job with help from the *Addy Indy*.

addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944
addisonindependent.com • email: classifieds@addisonindependent.com

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: addisonindependent.com

RATES DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
- 50¢ internet listing per issue • minimum 2 insertions

Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted

<input type="checkbox"/> Notices	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers
<input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks	<input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles
<input type="checkbox"/> Personals	<input type="checkbox"/> For Sale	<input type="checkbox"/> Cars
<input type="checkbox"/> Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings**	<input type="checkbox"/> Trucks
<input type="checkbox"/> Free**	<input type="checkbox"/> For Rent	<input type="checkbox"/> SUVs
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found**	<input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles
<input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat	<input type="checkbox"/> Boats
<input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted
<input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted
<input type="checkbox"/> Adoption		<input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals

** no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$1

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____
Cost: \$ _____
of runs: _____
Spotlight Charge: \$ _____
Internet Listing: \$ _____
TOTAL: \$ _____

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.

Convenience store issue leads to assault citation

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Daniel L. Devoid, 32, of Bristol for simple assault this past weekend. The charge followed an incident at the Maplefields store on North Pleasant Street on Nov. 2.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Responded to a report of a family fight in a vehicle parked near the intersection of East Main Street and North Branch Road on Oct. 27. Police said the fight had led to a broken vehicle window and "threats of further violence."
- Gave a ride home on Oct. 27 to a Porter Hospital patient who had been discharged and had no other transportation.
- Helped an unsheltered person find housing for the night on Oct. 27.
- Dealt with an alcohol offense at Middlebury Union High School on Oct. 27.
- Investigated a harassment complaint on Hepburn Road on Oct. 27.
- Responded to a report of a person being harassed in the South Pleasant Street area on Oct. 28.
- Had a vehicle towed that had been blocking Halladay Road on Oct. 28.
- Conducted a health-and-welfare check on a Buttolph Drive

Middlebury Police Log

- resident on Oct. 29.
- Arrested Michael F. Seaver, 70, on an outstanding warrant on Oct. 29.
- Searched in vain for a driver who had sped away from an attempted traffic stop near the intersection of Route 7 and River Road on Oct. 29.
- Responded to a road hazard on Weybridge Street on Oct. 30.
- Responded to a report of suspicious activity on Munson Road on Oct. 30.
- Responded to a reported domestic disturbance at a North Pleasant Street home on Oct. 30.
- Helped Middlebury Regional EMS with a medical call on Oct. 30.
- Responded to a noise complaint on Cross Street on Oct. 31.
- Deployed K-9 Guinness to sniff on a vehicle that Vermont State Police had stopped near the intersection of Greenbush Road and Green Meadow Lane in Ferrisburgh on Oct. 31. Police said Guinness alerted on the vehicle, which they said yielded evidence

of drug use.

- Assisted Vermont Fish & Wildlife officials in processing a driver suspected of driving under the influence on Oct. 31.
- Located a juvenile who had been reported missing from the Wilmar Street area on Oct. 31.
- Investigated a child custody issue in the Jackson Lane area on Oct. 31.
- Assisted Vermont State Police with their investigation of a road-rage incident on Route 7 in New Haven on Oct. 31.
- Responded to a retail theft at a Court Street business on Oct. 31.
- Helped to resolve juvenile issues at MUHS and Mary Hogan Elementary School on Oct. 31.
- Moved along a male who was sleeping in the entryway of a local business on Oct. 31.
- Helped with the removal of a tree limbs from the middle of Shannon and East Munger streets on Oct. 31.
- Helped Vermont State Police with a drug influence evaluation of a person near Piney Woods Road in Monkton on Nov. 1.
- Participated in a successful search for a missing person in the Lake Dunmore area on Nov. 1.
- Escorted the MUHS volleyball team to the town line as it headed

to its championship game in Colchester on Nov. 2.

- Investigated a reported vandalism case on Mary Hogan School property on Nov. 2.
- Helped a Sugarwood Court resident get an uncooperative child indoors on Nov. 2.
- Received a report about a man having a mental health episode in the Jayne Court neighborhood on Nov. 2.
- Responded to a call related to mental health in the South Main Street area on Nov. 3.

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 11B and 12B

- Addison Northwest School District (1)
- ACSD(1)
- Leicester (1)
- Middlebury (1)
- Monkton (1)
- State of Vermont (1)
- Vergennes Panton Water District (1)

Leicester

Have a news tip? Call the Addison Independent at 388-4944

NEWS

LEICESTER — The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo this Saturday, Nov. 8, at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center, at the Four Corners. Refreshments served and all are welcome.

Town Clerk Julie Delphia reminds property owners that taxes are due, paid in full, by Nov. 15. Postmarks are not accepted as proof of payment; to avoid penalties and fines see that taxes are paid in a timely manner. There is a drop box between the office doors if it is more convenient to pay taxes that way.

At Town Meeting 2025, residents approved an item to move all money matters, including the town budget, to an Australian Ballot. In March 2026, there will be an informational meeting the night before Town Meeting to discuss the budget, but no vote will take place from the floor. The 2026 budget will be created during the late November and December selectboard meetings. Budget questions, comments and suggestions can be forwarded to the town office for selectboard consideration.

in Falls Park after sunset to move along.

- Calmed a verbal domestic dispute at a Main Street residence.

VUHS employee cited for providing cannabis to a minor

VERGENNES — Vergennes police on Oct. 28 issued several citations to a Vergennes Union High/Middle School employee after she allegedly "provided a juvenile with a vape pen knowing it contained THC," according to a police report.

City police also allege Erica Curtis, 34, of Vergennes "provided officers with false information while trying to implicate another," according to the department's weekly media log.

School officials called police to VUHS on the morning of Oct. 28 and interviewed Curtis along with police, according to the media log. Curtis was cited for selling or dispensing to minors, selling on school grounds; dispensing cannabis to a person under 21, criminal offense; and making false reports to law enforcement authorities, police said. The Addison Northwest School District website lists Curtis as a School Nutrition Chef/Co-Manager.

In other actions between Oct. 27 and Nov. 2, Vergennes police conducted 15 traffic stops, five cruiser patrols, two foot patrols, and one VIN inspection; responded to five false alarms; processed seven fingerprint requests; and:

- On Oct. 27:
 - Served two no-trespass notices on behalf of the Maplefields convenience store.
 - Heard from an individual who was frustrated that she was almost hit on Main Street due to emergency vehicles.
- On Oct. 29:
 - On behalf of Vermont State Police at the city station evaluated a driver for being under the influence of drugs following a motor vehicle stop in Ferrisburgh. The department Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) concluded the operator was impaired by a substance other than alcohol.
 - Assisted an elderly individual who appeared to be experiencing issues with mental health.

On Oct. 30:

- Heard that a resident had received harassing text messages. Police told the resident how to apply for a relief-from-abuse order.
- Were told a suspicious male was attempting to sell a product to Booth Woods residents. Police couldn't find him.

On Oct. 31:

- Participated in Trick or Treat event at the Vergennes Fire Department by handing out candy and glow sticks.

• Sent a department DRE to the state police barracks in New Haven to evaluate a driver.

After completing the evaluation, the DRE determined the driver was impaired by a substance other than alcohol.

• Cited Harold Ricketts Jr., 35, of Vergennes for lewd and lascivious conduct. Police issued the citation after responding to a report of a male engaging in an act of self-stimulation in a vehicle in a public setting on Main Street.

• Received a report from Maplefields that someone had spilled a large amount of gas at the pump without reporting it to the store. Police said an investigation is ongoing.

• Assisted state police with a domestic assault investigation on Nortontown Road in Addison.

On Nov. 1:

- Along with the fire department escorted the VUHS girls' soccer team out of town on the way to their championship game, and later escorted them around the city in a victory parade when they returned with the trophy.

• Heard from a Northland Job Corps student who reported their personal information had been stolen. Police said an investigation is ongoing.

• Heard that a Second Street resident was receiving threatening text messages from a juvenile. Police said an investigation is ongoing.

On Nov. 2:

- Told the owner of a vehicle

Vergennes Police Log

ONLINE AUCTION

(1676) BANKRUPTCY: ARTWORK & SCULPTURES

AUCTION CLOSES: Wed., Nov. 19 @ 10AM
PREVIEW: Tuesday, Nov. 11 from 10AM-12PM
ITEMS LOCATED: 131 Dorset Lane, Williston, VT 05495





Discover an extraordinary opportunity to acquire original works from renowned artists, including major paintings, mixed media pieces, and large-scale sculptures.

THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY
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MARKET REPORT				
ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES				
RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT				
Sales for 10/30/25 & 11/3/25				
		COST		
BEEF	LBS.	/LB		\$
Spring Lake	1135	2.00		\$2270.00
Degraaf	1420	1.80		\$2556.00
J. Blake	1695	1.67		\$2830.65
Iroquois Acres	1655	1.62		\$2681.10
Vorsteveld	1840	1.60		\$2944.00
Sunderland	1825	1.50		\$2737.50
CALVES				
Barnes B&W				\$1526.00
Sunderland				\$1428.00
Correia				\$1391.00
Green Mtn Dairy				\$1380.00
Vorsteveld				\$1342.60
P. Livingston				\$1277.20
Total Beef - 159		Total Calves - 178		
We value our faithful customers.				
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.				
call 1-802-388-2661				

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent	For Rent	Want to Rent
<p>MIDDLEBURY ONE BED-ROOM Small, ground floor. Very nice, very convenient in-town location, perfect for person who does not drive. \$795 plus heat and electric. Non-smoker, no pets. 802-388-5474.</p>	<p>MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831. AJ Neri Property Rentals.</p>	<p>PLEASE, I NEED a space, even a floor until spring. Have no pets, no smoking, no car. Do no drugs. Money negotiable. Abby Bray 802-598-6176. brayabby3@gmail.com</p>
<p>MIDDLEBURY: Senior woman who enjoys exercise, gardening, singing in the choir, seeking housemate to cook some evening meals in exchange for reduced rent of \$300/month. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO</p>	<p>SPACIOUS ONE BED-ROOM House for rent in Orwell. Large rooms, open design, fully furnished, incl washer/dryer. All utilities included. No pets. Off street parking. \$1400/mo. Avail Dec 1st, month-to-month for up to 6 months. Call 802-349-3553 and leave a message.</p>	<p style="background-color: #333; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Wood Heat</p> <p>DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.</p>
<p>MONKTON Monkton — 4,600 sq ft commercial workshop. Open plan, office plus 2 workrooms; kitchenette (tenant provides fridge). Power: 110/220 & 3-phase. Oil heat, 4 zones. Minutes to Burlington, Middlebury, Vergennes & Hinesburg. Contact Ricky 802-636-0127 or visit northstarpropertiesvt.tenantcloud.com/listings/181951.</p>	<p>VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.</p>	<p style="background-color: #333; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Real Estate</p> <p>RIPTON LOT Ripton 10.1 acre lot. County Cross Rd frontage. Call 802 233 0845</p>
<p style="background-color: #333; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Att. Farmers</p> <p>1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.</p>		

PUBLIC NOTICE?
Email us at: legals@addisonindependent.com

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT ADDISON UNIT

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST

PLAINTIFF

CIVIL DIVISION DOCKET NO: 23-CV-01029

VS.

ANDREW H. MONTROLL, ESQ., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF PAUL SMITH; CITIFINANCIAL, INC.; AND OCCUPANTS RESIDING AT 229 PINE LANE, SALISBURY, VT 05769

DEFENDANT(S)

NOTICE OF SALE

In accordance with the Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale filed on February 14, 2025, in the above captioned action brought to foreclose that certain mortgage given by Paul C. Smith and Dianne L. Schroeder to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Flagstar Bank, FSB, dated July 11, 2006, and recorded in Book 60, at Page 117, of the Town of Salisbury Land Records, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by virtue of the following Assignments of Mortgage: (1) Assignment of Mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Flagstar Bank, FSB to Nationstar Mortgage LLC recorded in Book 64, at Page 88 (2) Assignment of Mortgage from Nationstar Mortgage LLC to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT recorded in Book 71, at Page 153 (3) Assignment of Mortgage from U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT to DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. recorded in Book 78, at Page 199 and (4) Assignment of Mortgage from DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCAF Acquisition Trust recorded in Book 80, at Page 167, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on December 3, 2025 at 01:00 PM at 229 Pine Lane, Salisbury, VT 05769 all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To Wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Paul C. Smith and Dianne L. Schroeder by Warranty Deed of Steven R. Carruthers dated December 18, 1998 and recorded in Book 45 at Page 539 of the Town of Salisbury Land Records and is described therein as follows:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to the herein Grantor Steven R. Carruthers by Warranty Deed of John L. Austin and Judy H. Austin dated September 29, 1992, recorded in Book 39, Page 302 of the Salisbury Land Records, and being more particularly described therein as follows:

"Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to John L. Austin and Judy Hendy (now known as Judy H. Austin) by Warranty Deed from Raymond R. Wanke, II and Shelley Wanke dated August 23, 1985 and recorded in the Salisbury Land Records in Book 32 at Page 596 and being more particularly described therein as follows:

"Being all and the same lands and premises described in Warranty Deed of Leo F. Sabourin and June M. Sabourin to Raymond R. Wanke, II and Shelley Wanke, the Grantors herein, dated June 22, 1981 and recorded in Book 30, Page 429 of the Salisbury Land Records and therein more particularly described, in pertinent part, as follows:

"Beginning at a point on the northwesterly corner of the parcel herein conveyed marked by marble marker, said point also being located on the rod right of way to Route 53; thence proceeding in a general southerly direction 90 feet to a point marked by a marble marker; thence turning and running in a general easterly direction a distance of 97 feet to a point marked by a marble marker; thence turning and running in a general northerly direction 90 feet to a point marked by a marble marker, said point being located on the northeasterly corner of the aforesaid right of way; thence turning and running in a general westerly direction 92 feet along said right of way to the point and place of beginning.

Bounded on the west by George Wright, on the south by Sleepy Oaks, so called and on the east by Paula Wimett. Included is a right of way leading from Vermont Route 53 to Lake Dunmore; AND SUBJECT to the right of way of the Grantors and others to use said roadway leading from Vermont Route 53 to Lake Dunmore;

Subject to applicable zoning, development and subdivision laws, regulations, restrictions, conditions, ordinances and the like promulgated by the State of Vermont, the Town of Salisbury or any other municipal corporation, any of their subdivisions, or any commission, agency, board or the like, by whatever name called, regarding any matter affecting health, safety, order and the like.

Reference is made to said deed and the references contained therein for a more particular description.

The Grantees herein are obligated to pay water rent to Bryon E. Jones, his heirs, successors and assigns commencing 1 November 1981 as follows:

Rental due from Grantees or their heirs and assigns, \$7.00 per month until June 1985 while the said Grantees are actually using water from the said Bryon E. Jones' well. After June 1985, the Grantees or their heirs and assigns shall pay such rental as may be agreed upon by the said Bryon E. Jones, his heirs and assigns and said Grantees herein and their heirs and assigns."

The foregoing parcel is commonly referred to as the "Renshaw Cottage".

Subject to easements and right of way of record, if any, as of the date hereof."

The lands and premises hereby conveyed are not the homestead of the herein Grantor.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The public sale may be adjourned one or more times for a total time not exceeding 30 days, without further court order, and without publication or service of a new notice of sale, by announcement of the new sale date to those present at each adjournment or by posting notice of the adjournment in a conspicuous place at the location of the sale.

Terms of Sale: \$10,000.00 to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time of sale, with the balance due at closing. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

The Mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

Other terms to be announced at sale.

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST
 Bozena Wysocki, Esq.
 BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC
 23 Messenger Street
 2nd Floor
 Plainville, MA 02762
VT_Noticesofhearing@brockandscott.com

**TOWN OF LEICESTER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
LEICESTER DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

The Leicester Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at the Leicester Town Office at 6:00 p.m.** to consider the following application:

(22-25 DRB), Application 22-25 DRB of Corey & Jessica Quenneville, 1807 U.S. Rt 7, Leicester, VT 05733, Parcel #020067.1 for a Section 3.7 Waiver of Setback for the construction/installation of a 28'x 45' Modular Home. This modular home is to replace the old farmhouse that was destroyed by fire. The location of the new home will result in a reduction of the north side setback to 20' from the parcel north boundary (District standard is 50' for side setback)

Applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office, 44 Schoolhouse Rd., Leicester, VT during regularly scheduled hours.

Participation, either in person or in writing, in this proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. Any related correspondence should be mailed to Leicester Zoning Administrator, 44 Schoolhouse Road, Leicester, VT 05733.

Jeff McDonough
DRB Chairman
November 3, 2025

**STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT
DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-06523
IN RE ESTATE OF: TRAVIS B. JACOBS A/K/A TRAVIS BEAL JACOBS**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: **Travis B. Jacobs**, late of Bridport, Vermont. We have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to us at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: 10/29/25 Co-Executors:
Constance J. Carroll and T. Beal Jacobs, Jr.
% James W. Swift, Esq.
Langrock, Sperry, & Wool, LLP, 111 South Pleasant Street,
Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 388-6356
jswift@langrock.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 11/6/25
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

**STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION
Addison Unit Docket No. 25-CV-00906**

JOHN SHERLOCK, Plaintiff v. JENNIFER STOCKER, ADAM SHAFER, ALL OCCUPANTS OF 2168 RIVER ROAD, NEW HAVEN, VERMONT, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, REINHART FOOD SERVICE, LLC, and NATIONAL FUNDING, INC., Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE

In accordance with the Judgment Order and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale dated October 15, 2025 in the above-captioned action brought to foreclose the mortgage given by Adam Shafer and Jennifer Stocker to John Sherlock recorded in Book 83, Page 480 of the New Haven, Vermont Land Records, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, there will be sold to the highest bidder at public auction at 2168 River Road, New Haven, Vermont, at 2PM on December 9, 2025 all and singular the premises described in the said mortgage, to wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Quitclaim Deed of John P. Sherlock to Adam Shafer and Jennifer Stocker dated August 14, 2015 and recorded in Book 83, Page 407 of the New Haven, Vermont Land Records and further described therein.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The public sale may be adjourned one or more times for a total time not exceeding 30 days, without further court order and without publication or service of a new notice of sale, by announcement of the new sale date to those present at each adjournment or by posting notice of the adjournment in a conspicuous place at the location of the sale.

The purchaser must at the time of the winning bid sign a no contingency purchase and sale contract (subject only to Court confirmation) and deliver a \$10,000 deposit in the form of cash, a bank treasurer's check, or a certified check. The deposit is subject to forfeiture. All bids are to be made and payable in U.S. Dollars.

The mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the Mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

Other terms to be announced at sale.

John Sherlock, Mortgagee
By John M. Mazzuchi, Esq., his counsel
MSK Attorneys
275 College St.
Burlington, VT 05406
jmazzuchi@mskvt.com (802) 388-6337; (802) 382-8840 (fax)

PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

Vermont Securities Regulations
Vermont Proposed Rule: 25P038
AGENCY: Department of Financial Regulation
CONCISE SUMMARY: The Vermont Securities Regulations set out requirements for issuing securities in Vermont and regulating those who provide investment advice and offer and sell securities to the public. The primary changes include: for investment companies offering federally covered securities in Vermont, the revised Rule mandates electronic filings through a system to be designated by the Commissioner (allowed but not required under the current Rule); adding a requirement that Vermont domiciled investment advisers controlling client funds carry errors and omissions insurance; clarifying provisions for administering restitution assistance for victims of securities violations, including the application process; adding into regulation a current Department policy governing the privacy of client financial information held by broker-dealers and investment advisers; updating certain provisions to match national model rules from North American Securities Administrators Association; and drafting changes for clarity.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Russ McCracken, Assistant General Counsel, Department of Financial Regulation, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05620 Tel: 802-828-3301 E-mail: russ.mccracken@vermont.gov URL: <https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/legal-general-counsel/proposed-rules-and-public-comment>.

FOR COPIES: Amanda Smith, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Financial Regulation, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05620 Tel: 802-828-3420 E-mail: amanda.smith@vermont.gov

Bristol man arrested after hit and run crash

BRISTOL — Bristol police on Oct. 29 responded to a hit and run on Main Street and, after investigating, arrested Dylan Lussier, 24, of Bristol for driving under the influence of alcohol.

They also cited Lussier for leaving the scene of an accident, driving with a criminally suspended license and operating a motor vehicle without an ignition interlock device.

Between Oct. 19 and Nov. 1 Bristol police completed 41 foot patrols, conducted six traffic stops and checked security at Mount Abraham Union High School 13 times, at Bristol Elementary School 13 times and at local businesses 10 times.

Police also processed 14 fingerprint requests, verified two vehicle identification numbers, helped one individual get into their locked vehicle, and responded to one 911 hang-up call that was dialed by accident.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

- On Oct. 20 helped a motorist remove a small tree from Monkton Road.
- On Oct. 21 received a report of a dog bite and forwarded the information to Bristol's town health officer for reporting purposes.
- On Oct. 22 received a report of a burglary on Main Street. An investigation is ongoing.

Public Notices

can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 10B, 11B and 15A.

TOWN OF MONKTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Monkton Development Review Board will hold the following hearing on Monday, November 24, 2025, beginning at 7:30 PM. The hearing will be held in person at the Town Office, located at 92 Monkton Ridge. The hearing will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

• Final Application #2025-09-DRB Jon Binhammer for The Nature Conservancy/Estate of Beverly Latreille. 2-lot subdivision located at 785 Rotax Road (Parcel ID 02.114.003.001) in the RA5 Zoning District.

An electronic copy of the application can be obtained by emailing zoning@monktonvt.com. A hard copy of the application is available at Town Hall by appointment. Please call 802-453-3800 to make an appointment.

Remote Access: Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/8024533800> * Meeting ID: 802 453 3800 * Passcode: 1762
Phone In: 1-646-558-8656 * Meeting ID: 802 453 3800 * Passcode: 1762

WARNING ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC. DECEMBER 09, 2025

The legal voters of VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC. are hereby notified and warned to meet at the V.P.W.D. business office building on 63 School Street in the City of Vergennes in said District, on the 9th day of December, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in person to transact the following business to wit:

- ARTICLE I:** To elect by ballot the following officers:
(a) a moderator
(b) a clerk
(c) a treasurer
- ARTICLE II:** To hear and act upon the reports from the officers of the VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC.
- ARTICLE III:** To have presented by the Board of Commissioners of the VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC. their estimate of expenses for the ensuring year and to appropriate such sum as it, the VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC. deems necessary for said expenses together with the amount required to pay the balance, if any, left unpaid expressing said sum in dollars in its vote.
- ARTICLE IV:** To establish salaries for the Commissioners and other elected officers of the Water District.
- ARTICLE V:** To see whether the voters of said Water District will authorize its Board to borrow money pending receipt of water rents, by issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one(1) year to date.
- ARTICLE VI:** To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Dated at Vergennes, Vermont, this 6th day of November, 2025
Maria L. Brown, Clerk
VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT

ANWSD BOARD MEETING NOTICES FOR NOVEMBER 2025

Monday, Nov 3	5:00 PM	Negotiations Committee Meeting ANWSD Conference Room
Thursday, Nov 6	4:30 PM	Negotiations Committee w/ANTA VUMHS Library
Monday, Nov 10	4:50 PM	Policy Committee Mtg. VUMHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting VUMHS Library
Monday, Nov 17	4:00 PM	Facilities Committee Mtg. VUMHS Library
	4:50 PM	Finance Committee Mtg. VUMHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Mtg. VUMHS Library
Wednesday, Nov 19	5:30 PM	CEC Meeting Virtual only
Thursday, Nov 20	4:30 PM	Negotiations Committee w/ANTA VUMHS Library
** SPECIAL EVENT: **		
Thursday, Nov 13	6:00 PM	ACT 73 Community Forum VUMHS Auditorium



Cup-tastic!

THE 5TH- AND 6TH-grade team from Starksboro last month won the 5 Town Cup in a tournament that included six teams. The Oct. 14 tourney played on the Bristol Rec Fields saw three teams from Bristol and one team each from Starksboro, Lincoln and Monkton play a game against each of the competitors. The players from Starksboro were undefeated. Celebrating their victory are Starksboro kids, from left, front row, Jacob Russin and Carson Shepard (holding the trophy); middle row, Mason Johnson, Miles Hamilton, Wylie Shepard, Jase Johnson, Elyjah Purinton and Willow Chaplin; and, back row, Keegan Sawyer. Missing from the picture are coach Tyler Johnson and player Caleb Fraser. Congratulations, all!

- On Oct. 20 assisted Vermont State Police on Plank Road.
- On Oct. 21 received a report of a dog bite and forwarded the information to Bristol's town health officer for reporting purposes.
- On Oct. 22 received a report of a burglary on Main Street. An investigation is ongoing.

- On Oct. 23 assisted a local business with issuing a notice against trespass.
- On Oct. 24 responded to an animal problem on Church Street.
- On Oct. 24 assisted Homeward Bound on Rockydale Road.
- On Oct. 25 responded to a noise complaint and advised the owner of a business that a radio that was left on.
- On Oct. 26 received a late report of a motor vehicle crash that occurred on Prince Lane.
- On Oct. 26 received a report of a chicken that was loose on West

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

I represent 3BD, LLC. The company sold substantially all of its assets on October 28, 2025 and is currently in the process of winding up its business. I have been authorized by the company to administer that winding up. If you would like to submit a claim for amounts due to you from 3BD, LLC you may do so by sending your claim in writing to:

Pease Mountain Law PLLC
P.O. Box 279
Hinesburg, VT 05461-0279

Your claim must commence within 5 years after publication of this notice. If your claim is not received within that 5-year period it will be barred pursuant to 11 V.S.A. §4108. Your claim must include copies of all billing documents in support of your claim.
Dated: October 28, 2025

Michael T. Russell
Pease Mountain Law
PO Box 279
Hinesburg, VT 05461-0279

Name of Publication:
Addison Independent
Publication Date: November 6, 2025

Street. The chicken was housed in a safe location until the owner could be located.

- On Oct. 26 received a credit card that was found on West Street.
- On Oct. 28 received an assault report. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Oct. 28 investigated a minor motor vehicle crash.
- On Oct. 28 assisted someone on Main Street with getting a protection order.
- On Oct. 29 received a report of a missing dog on Main Street. The dog was found by its owner.
- On Oct. 30 received a report of a tree down on an unoccupied parked car. Police were also told of trees down on wires and reported that Green Mountain Power was on the scene.
- On Oct. 31 attended a sports event at Mount Abraham Union High School.
- On Oct. 31 completed a foot patrol, monitored traffic and helped residents crossing North Street during Halloween.
- On Nov. 1 checked the welfare of someone on Liberty Street and assisted with contacting mental health services.
- On Nov. 1 found a key fob on Pleasant Street and placed it in the lost and found.
- On Nov. 1 arrested Tyler Barker, 29, of Bristol for domestic assault.

Find Us On:  

For breaking news & updates wherever you are!

@addisonindependent

***** This draft Selectboard meeting agenda is subject to change. *****

**TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING
ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET
Wednesday, November 12, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.**

Also available via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85217245806>
By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)
Webinar ID: 852 1724 5806

For those wishing to watch but not participate:
Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV Vermont>
and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071

AGENDA

7:00	1. Call to Order 2. *Approval of Agenda 3. *Approval of Consent Agenda 3a. *Approval of the Minutes of the October 28, 2025 Regular Selectboard Meeting 3b. *Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (if any) 3c. *Approval of Applications - Renewal of State Licenses/Permits (if any) 3d. *Approval of Check Warrants 3e. *Consent Agenda Placeholder 3f. *Consent Agenda Placeholder 3g. **Town Manager's Report
7:05	4. **Citizen Comments (opportunity to raise/address issues not otherwise included in this agenda)
7:10	5. *Proposed Town Policy - Traffic Calming Request Policy 6. Agenda Placeholder 7. Agenda Placeholder 8. **Board Member Concerns 9. Executive Session - Not Anticipated 10. Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
8:00	11. *Adjourn

*Possible Decision **Discussion

ARTS & LEISURE

The Addison Independent

November 6, 2025



ROOM FOR ALL!

ARTISTS CAN SPREAD OUT IN BIG, NEW STUDIO SCHOOL SPACE

Middlebury Studio School expanded to a larger space on Court Street this summer. They recently held a Family Day to welcome folks in to check out the new facility. Pictured are Sarah Briggs, Carrie Ade, Sam Weir and Ida Parini.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / ELSIE LYNN PARINI

You fill the purse you carry... as they say. Do you rock a bucket bag? Chances are we could live outta that thing for a week! Or do you clutch a pea-size purse? And only carry the bare necessities.

BY **ELSIE LYNN PARINI**

No judgment here. But take a look around, it's a strangely accurate adage.

So, what happened when Middlebury Studio School moved from its 1,200-square-foot studio in the Marble Works to the new 3,200-square-foot property on Court Street? Well, they filled it.

Correction, they're in the process of filling it.

Two Saturdays ago, MSS opened its doors for a Family Day to welcome folks into the new space. There were pumpkin crafts, mask painting, snacks and more. The best part was that the whole house was open for exploration.

"It's light, bright and open," said Studio School Executive Director Sarah Briggs walking past a bay of windows decorated with paper fans by Kate Kauffman. "We are able to have



Ariane van Driel van Wageningen built this press and will be teaching other Middlebury Studio School instructors how to use it so MSS can add different kinds of printmaking classes to their offerings.

COURTESY PHOTO

concurrent classes and can be more flexible with scheduling."

The Court Street location, not far from the high school entrance, houses all the classes except

pottery, which remains at the studio on Route 7 South.

Purchased in March, MSS began holding classes at Court Street in June with its summer camp programming. The main floor is open and ADA accessible. The primary room features two groups of tables and easy access sinks — perfect for younger artists. The second half of the space is divided into two smaller rooms — one for fabric arts and the other is now set up with a printing press. Upstairs there are two private studio rooms, a large common area and a secondary room, where Briggs hopes to host an artist in residence who can produce their own work and teach classes. Finishing touches are still underway in the next few months. The basement level is the full footprint of the space and has loads of potential. There are even windows in the basement.

Briggs isn't intimidated by the size at all. On the contrary.

"There's a need and a want in the community to have a space to make art," she said.

SEE STUDIO ON PAGE 3

P.M. Sundays brings the Ben Garnett Trio with guest

If you missed the first one, the second of the new P.M. Sundays' concert series is coming up — mark your calendars! On Sunday, Nov. 16, the Ben Garnett Trio featuring legendary special guest Brittany Haas will perform in the Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury from 4-6 p.m.

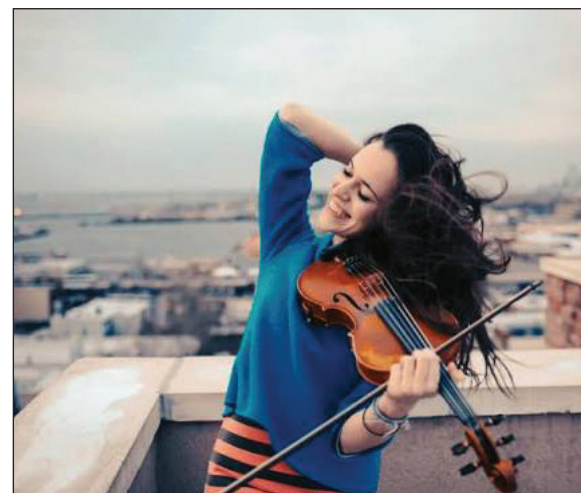
Garnett's album release tour features acoustic guitar, fiddle and bass and debuts entirely original music. The trio rounds out their sets with a selection of bluegrass and fiddle tunes, jazz standards, and pop songs. Garnett's forthcoming album, "Kite's Keep" (2025), features artfully constructed compositions brought to life by acoustic music luminaries like Darol Anger, Brittany Haas (fiddle), Ethan Jodziewicz, Dan Klingsberg (bass), and Chris Eldridge (guitar).

For Garnett, the acoustic guitar is naturally cinematic. "It has this ability to build a world for other instruments to inhabit," he mused.

Haas is widely regarded as one of the most influential fiddlers of her generation. Born in Northern California, Brittany grew up honing her craft at string camps nationwide and developed her unique style of fiddling at the influence of her mentors, Bruce Molsky and Darol Anger. A prodigious youth, Haas began



The Ben Garnett Trio featuring Brittany Haas (pictured right) will perform on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 16, in the Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. This is the second concert in the new P.M. Sundays' concert series led by Don Sheldon of Weybridge.



touring with Darol Anger's Republic of Strings at the age of 14. At 17, she released her debut, self-titled solo album (produced by Anger).

Haas has always been a much sought-after collaborator and session musician. She has performed on Late Night With David Letterman and Saturday Night Live as part of Steve Martin's bluegrass band, and features on Martin's Grammy-winning album "The Crow: New Songs for the 5-String Banjo." Over the years, she has

performed with Bela Fleck, Abigail Washburn, Tony Trischka, Yonder Mountain String Band, The Waybacks, Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas (her cellist sister) and more.

Tickets are \$15/student and \$25/regular and \$28/day of show and are limited to 100 attendees. Reserve your spot at townhalltheater.org, call 802-382-9222 or visit the box office from Monday-Friday from 12-5 p.m.

Local talent supports local radio

BRISTOL HOSTS BENEFIT CONCERT TO LAUNCH NEW COMMUNITY STATION

The Five-Town community is tuning up for a night of live music and local pride as WVVT 94.7 FM hosts a benefit concert on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 7-9 p.m., at Holley Hall in Bristol. The event will raise funds to help launch the region's brand-new community radio station, WVVT 94.7 FM, set to go live in early 2026.

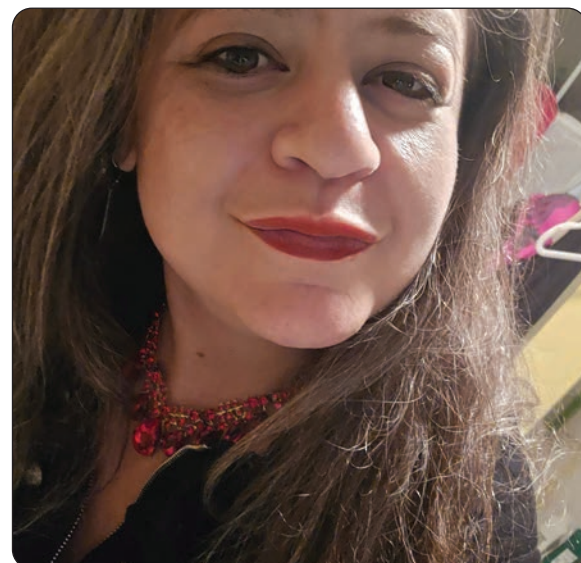
Headlining the evening are local favorites

Scarlet Annie and The Individuals, whose soulful rock 'n' roll has become a staple of the local music scene — from summer nights at The Tillerman to lively shows on the Bristol Green bandstand.

The event is free and open to the public, with beer, wine, and hard cider available for purchase courtesy of Hogback Mountain Brewing. Limited-edition WVVT t-shirts and stickers will also be on sale, with all proceeds supporting the station's start-up costs, including studio equipment, transmission hardware and licensing fees.

"We've been amazed by the community's enthusiasm," said WVVT Founding Partner, Jonathan Corcoran. "People are already lining up to produce shows — it's clear this radio station will be the heart and voice of the Five-Town area."

WVVT 94.7 FM is a fully volunteer-run initiative



Scarlet Annie and The Individuals will headline a benefit concert to be held at Holley Hall in Bristol on Saturday, Nov. 8. Funds raised will go to supporting the creation of a brand new local radio station.

dedicated to amplifying local voices, music, stories and events. The station's mission is to create a space for community connection, creativity, and conversation across Bristol, Lincoln, Starksboro, Monkton and New Haven. For those unable to attend the concert, donations can be made anytime through WVVT's ongoing GoFundMe campaign.

DETAILS

WHAT: WVVT 94.7 FM Benefit Concert

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 8, 7-9 p.m.

WHERE: Holley Hall, Bristol

ADMISSION: Free (donations encouraged)

For more information or to RSVP, email jonathan@wvvt.org, or visit firesidecommunitymedia.org/benefit-show.

STUDIO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Right out of the gate the move to our new location has been very positive for the growth of our programming," said Carrie Ade, a Middlebury artist

who has been the Art Education Coordinator at MSS since 2021, and also teaches children's painting classes and summer art camps. "With substantially more space to work with we have really been able to begin tailoring the areas of the studio into more specific workspaces for different mediums, as well as now being able to offer private studio space. There is also more room for community events, outreach programs, artist talks, and workshops with guest artists and instructors, so it is all very exciting."

"As a textile artist, the new space has allowed the opportunity to offer classes that work best within a dedicated textile arts studio," added Eileen Gombosi, a fiber artist and MSS instructor from Ripton. "My classes are alive

with the creative active energy that each student brings to class. For instance, this past summer marked the first indigo dyeing, three-day workshop where students learned how to formulate a dye vat and then went on to dye a variety of fibers. This magical blue dye has been used throughout the world for centuries and it was exciting to continue this artistic tradition both in the Textile Studio and in the ample outdoor space."

Practically, the school had difficulty storing so much material in the former studio space. But in this new space, there's room! And the possibilities are expanding.

Gombosi plans to offer a series of classes on cochineal natural dyeing this winter — with ethically sourced cochineal insects from Peruvian farmers.

"We will be experimenting with how the natural dye works with cotton, wool and silk fibers," she said. "I will also be 'hosting' a Textile Art Open Studio where students can bring their artistic ideas and inspirations to the studio and I will

FALL POTTERY SALE

Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
94 Court St., Middlebury

Browse through a collection of beautifully handcrafted pieces created by 30 local artisans while supporting the community and education programs at Middlebury Studio School. Plus, check out the new MSS space.

assist their creative process."

Creativity was on display during the Family Day, as was diversity in ages. Kids were there with their parents and grandparents.

"One of my favorite things about Middlebury Studio School is the mix of ages," Briggs said. "I hope we can continue to cultivate that here in our new space."

To learn more about Middlebury Studio School visit middleburystudioschool.org.



Want to know what's going on at Middlebury College and in the community?

A 



Subscribe to Indy News, a weekly email newsletter for at-a-glance updates on what's happening and why it matters.



MIDDLEBURY PERFORMING ARTS SERIES



TAKÁCS QUARTET
50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR
FRIDAY, 11/14 • 7:30 PM

\$30/20/10/5
802-443-MIDD (6433)

See the full 2025-2026 season:
go.middlebury.edu/pas



Middlebury Studio School recently held a Family Day to welcome folks in to check out the new facility on Court Street.

COURTESY PHOTOS

SUBSCRIBE
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

One-woman show presents an outrageously brave character

Deborah Lubar, known and loved for creating performances which could be described as conjured distillations in story form of the human spirit at its best, will perform her first new play in many years at Town Hall Theater tomorrow and Saturday, Nov. 7 and 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Whether an imagined portrait of Eve's version of her days in the garden of Eden; a play based upon a very real woman who was a prominent and outrageously brave (even for those days) member of the resistance against Hitler, Jewish and Palestinian's women's stories as they struggle with the immense literal and emotional complexities of their lives in Israel/Palestine, or a dream play based on Lubar's meetings with Bosnian women who survived the demented horrors of that war, her plays are always complex evocations of complex

people navigating a complex world.

In her new one-woman play, "If You Were Really There," this remarkable character-actress brings to full life an aging actress as she speaks a raucous and loving thanks to her many audiences and several very real and one imagined remarkable old woman who are equally skilled at raising hell or heaven — women of enormous courage, humor, and faith in the ultimate goodness of life — brought to the stage with Lubar's usual skill in calling forth laughter, deep silence, tears, assenting grunts and other companionable responses from her audience on a regular basis.

Tickets are available on a sliding scale from \$20-\$40 and may be purchased at townhalltheater.org, or by visiting or calling the THT box office at 802-382-9222.



See Deborah Lubar star in her one-woman show "If You Were Really There," Nov. 7-8, on the main stage at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

PHOTO / TAYO GABLER

Visiting artist to talk about 'what women should be'

Bernadette Despujols will offer a lecture on her work on Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 4:30-6 p.m. in Johnson classroom 204, 78 Chateau Road in Middlebury. Despujols' practice encompasses sculpture, video, and installation, but is primarily focused on figurative painting to explore her experiences of intimacy and feminine embodiment. Women, girls, mothers, grandmothers, aunts and



Bernadette Despujols will offer a free lecture at Johnson in Middlebury on Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 4:30-6 p.m.

friends are displayed in all of their bodily extremity, slightness, beauty and tenderness.

"I want to explore the vast ocean in which the woman swims," she said, "one that goes way beyond those absurd expectations of what women should be."

This lecture is free and open to all.

New exhibit in Middlebury makes 'Impressions'

A new exhibit opening at Edgewater Gallery at the Falls in downtown Middlebury brings together three local printmakers — Matt Brown, Daryl Storrs, and William Hays.

"Impressions" is not a survey of one technique but a conversation in relief: multiple blocks that interlock and layer color; the sensitive brush and baren work of Japanese hanga; and the gradual unveiling of the image through reductive printing. Each process reveals the artists' individuality and vision, transforming the physical act of printing into an exploration of depth, rhythm and light.

From a hand-drawn impression to the inked block, these artists create infinite variations of color, light, and texture. Visitors are invited to look closely, not only at the subjects of each print but also at the marks of their making — the

SEE IMPRESSION ON PAGE 11



Hey Rob, what's for Sunday Supper?

SUNDAY SUPPER

A comforting three-course prix fixe dinner at a special price! Regular menu also available.

Follow @swifthouseinn on Instagram to get the latest menu.



JESSICA'S
AT
SWIFT HOUSE INN

25 Stewart Ln. Middlebury, VT
802-388-9925
swifthouseinn.com



Taste Vermont.

Tastings and bottle sales at the winery

HIGH ROWS Vineyards
highrowsvineyards.com

SATURDAYS
October 11 through November 29
1:00-4:30 pm.

@Highrows on Instagram 

388 Lincoln Rd., Ripton, VT 05766 | www.highrowsvineyards.com

ART ON EXHIBIT

BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center St, Brandon. For more info visit brandonartistsguild.org or call 802-247-4956.

"Merry & Bright" a Holiday Art Market of original artworks by more than 35 Vermont artists and artisans. An opening reception will be held Friday, Nov. 7, from 5-7 p.m. Free and open to all. On view through December.

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury
For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Impressions" brings together three local printmakers — Matt Brown, Daryl Storrs and William Hays — whose work demonstrates how this process of image-making can yield distinct languages. An opening reception will be held Saturday, Nov. 8, from 3-5 p.m., where the three artists will discuss their processes. On view through Dec. 31.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury
For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Reclaimed" brings together photographer Jim Westphalen and mixed-media artist Duncan Johnson in a duo exhibition exploring the resonance of renewal. On view through Nov. 15.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury
Visit townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

"Shadow, Light, and In Between." Thomas Munschauer will display 18 oil paintings and two watercolors, most of them new works in this new exhibit. He will also include a collection of his popular small format framed pieces. On view Nov. 7-Jan. 17, 2026. All are invited to a reception for the artist on Friday, Nov. 7, from 5-7 p.m.

JOHNSON EXHIBITION GALLERY

78 Chateau Road, Middlebury
For hours and info visit middlebury.edu/events

"Finding Hope Within" features art that has emerged through the carceral system in Vermont. A recent addition to the exhibit is a series of broadsides created in collaboration between "inside" and "outside" artists, including one on paper made by hand from their discarded clothing and bedding and letterpress printed by the inmates at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield, Vt. Regular open hours are daily from 1-7 p.m. On view through Nov. 14.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 9



ARIES: March 21/April 20. Insecurity may be sparking some hesitation, Aries. The key to coping is figuring out why you are feeling this way. Is it a trust issue or lack of recognition?

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, creative pursuits may hold your interest this week. Even if you lean more towards the practical, an artistic streak flows through you as well.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Working with others may prove challenging this week, Gemini. You may be too focused on a singular task. If this is the case, keep to yourself if you can.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. The week's planetary influences could increase your sensitivity to everything right now, Cancer. You might feel a little more sentimental or even weepy.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, obsessive thinking may be something you need to consider this week. There's a fine line between determination and obsession, so consider your fixations and how to fix them.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. It can be easy to confuse impulsivity with spontaneity, Virgo. But one requires more thought than the other. Think through everything before acting if you want to play it safe.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. It might be time to take a more measured approach to solving a difficult problem, Libra. If you've made several attempts with no success, it could be time to dig in.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, tap into your creativity to unblock your emotions this week. This can be a powerful tool in your arsenal. Creativity is a big part of you.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. You may get to focus on fun this week, Sagittarius. Look into your social calendar and seek ways to liven things up a little.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Everyone can use some time alone every once in a while, Capricorn. But it's important to socialize as well. Look to Aquarius to help you find balance.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Certain situations require a little more focus than they otherwise might, Aquarius. Bear down and do your best to block out distractions.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Don't pick yourself

to pieces this week, Pisces. Criticizing yourself will get you nowhere. You have a lot to offer, and others recognize the value of your input.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NOV. 8 — Kazuo Ishiguro, writer and Nobel Laureate (71)

NOV. 9 — Susan Tedeschi, singer & guitarist (55)

NOV. 10 — Neil Gaiman, writer (65)

NOV. 11 — Jon Batiste, musician (39)

NOV. 12 — Neil Young, musician (80)

NOV. 13 — Jimmy Kimmel, TV host (58)

NOV. 14 — Claude Monet, painter (d)

CALENDAR

NOV. 6-15
2025



THURSDAY, NOV. 6

"THERE'S A HOLE IN THE WORLD WHERE YOU USED TO BE" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Nov. 6, 4:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Room 125, 72 Porter Field Rd. Filmmaker Mariam Ghani presents her documentary on memory, mourning, and war, with lecture and Q&A. Free. Info: tinyurl.com/HoleInTheWorld.

POETRY NIGHT WITH MOLLY JOHNSEN & KARIN GOTTSALL IN VERGENNES.

Thursday, Nov. 6, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library Community Room, 258 Main St. Local poets Molly Johnsen and Karin Gottshall share new and selected work.

TRUE CRIME PODCAST CLUB IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Nov. 6, 6 p.m., Mini Ilesley Public Library Community Room, National Bank of Middlebury, 30 Main St. Discuss Season 1 of "The Clearing," where April Balascio uncovers her father's murderous past. Please listen to the podcast before the discussion. For participants 18+. More info at renee.ursitti@ilsleypubliclibrary.org, 802-388-4095.

"LE SALAIRE DE LA PEUR" (WAGES OF FEAR) SCREENING IN

MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m., McCardell Bicentennial Hall 216,

Middlebury College, Bicentennial Way. Henri-Georges Clouzot's 1953 nerve-shredding thriller follows four desperate men hired to haul nitroglycerin over treacherous mountain roads to extinguish an oil fire. Free. More info at tinyurl.com/FilmsAtCollege.

FRIDAY, NOV. 7

"MONOCHROME: LIGHT, SHADOW, FORM, TEXTURE" OPENING RECEPTION IN

MIDDLEBURY. Nov. 7, 4-7 p.m., PhotoPlace Gallery, 3 Park St. Black-and-white photography exhibition highlighting the drama of light and shadow, elegance of form and richness of texture. Photos selected by juror Jason Landry. Refreshments and mead tastings from Golden Rule Mead. On view in the gallery and online through Nov. 28. Free. Info: photoplacegallery@gmail.com, 802-989-7556, bit.ly/PPG-Monochrome2025.

MERRY & BRIGHT HOLIDAY ART MARKET OPENING RECEPTION IN BRANDON.

Friday, Nov. 7, 5-7 p.m., Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St. Meet two new artists and explore handcrafted ornaments, pottery, stained glass, jewelry, photography, fibers and whimsical gifts by Vermont artists. Complimentary light libations. More

info at 802-247-4956, brandonartistsguild.org. **"SHADOW, LIGHT, AND IN BETWEEN" OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Nov. 7, 5-7 p.m., Jackson Gallery, 68 S. Pleasant St. Reception for Thomas Munschauer's new exhibit featuring 18 oil paintings, two watercolors and small-format framed pieces. Free. More info at townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery, 802-382-9222.

YOUNG MASTER'S TRIO:

FRANÇOIS-FÉLIX ROY, MCKINLEY JAMES, AND OLIVER SCANLON IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Nov. 7, 6 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Hailing from Quebec and Vermont, the trio blends regional traditions with original material for a sound that is both rooted and exploratory, infused with a collaborative spirit. Tickets \$20.

THEATER GROUP LIMITED PRESENTS "IF YOU WERE REALLY THERE" IN

MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. Deborah Lubar debuts her first new one-woman show in 20 years, portraying courageous, inspiring and feisty women from around the world. Filled with her trademark laughter and love, the play explores themes of community and connection. Tickets \$20-\$40.

"SIMPLE SAGE" IN ROCHESTER.

Friday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m., The Theater at the Valley Hub (former Rochester High School), 222 S. Main St. A new one-act by local playwright Kate Youngdahl-Stauss about five women connected to a Granville farmhouse across two centuries. More info at wrvp.org.

SATURDAY, NOV. 8

LIVE MUSIC IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Enjoy soulful originals and expressive acoustic covers from singer-songwriter Melissa D, plus local craft vendors and a raffle supporting the summer music program.

FALL POTTERY SALE IN

MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Middlebury Studio School, 94 Court St. Browse handcrafted pieces by 30 local artisans, check out the new Middlebury Studio School space and support community and education programs.

LOOKING BACK/MOVING FORWARD: VERMONT

STORIES OF LGBTQ+ CAREGIVING & COMMUNITY IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Nov. 8, 1-3 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Scholar Andrew Ingall, podcaster Gail Golec, Social Tinkering founder Jeanette Langston, and artist/performer Francois Clemmons highlight LGBTQ+ caregiving legacies. Part of the Vermont Humanities Fall Festival 2025. Free.

caregiving legacies. Part of the Vermont Humanities Fall Festival 2025. Free.

"LA BOHÈME" IN

MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Nov. 8, 1 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Part of The MET: Live in HD series. Franco Zeffirelli's production brings 19th-century Paris to the stage as Puccini's young friends and lovers navigate the joys and struggles of bohemian life. Tickets \$10-\$24. More info at addisonarts.org/event/the-met-live-in-hd-la-boheme.

TEDXMIDDLEBURY

CONFERENCE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Nov. 8, 1-4 p.m., Robison Hall, Middlebury College, 72 Porter Field Road. Student-run conference featuring TEDx talks by Molly Solomon (president, NBC Olympics), Charlie Sellars (sustainability director, Microsoft), Weiwei Wang (executive director, VT PoC Network), Caitlin Myers (Middlebury professor of economics) and Mohamed Noor (Middlebury class of 2027). Tickets at go.middlebury.edu/boxoffice.

"SIMPLE SAGE" IN

ROCHESTER. Saturday, Nov. 8, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., The Theater at the Valley Hub (former Rochester High School), 222 S. Main St. See Nov. 7 listing.

"IMPRESSIONS" OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org , for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 802-388-3062.	
Channel 1071 Through the Night and in-between: Public Affairs, Bulletin Board Friday, November 7 5:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 6:30 a.m. Democracy Now 7:30 a.m. Congregational Service 10 a.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 5 p.m. Development Review Board (DRB) Saturday, November 8 4:30 a.m. Democracy Now 5:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 7 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 10 a.m. Selectboard 12 p.m. DRB 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Sharpe Takes Sunday, November 9 5:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 6:30 a.m. DRB 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 9:30 a.m. AAUW-Finding Hope Within 3 p.m. Sharpe Takes	4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. DRB Monday, November 10 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Sharpe Takes 10 a.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 6 p.m. DRB 9 p.m. Sharpe Takes 10 p.m. Democracy Now 11 p.m. All Things LGBTQ Tuesday, November 11 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Democracy Now 7 a.m. DRB 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard 12 p.m. Addison Co. Chamber Awards 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Sharpe Takes 7 p.m. Selectboard Wednesday, November 12	5 a.m. Chamber of Commerce 6:30 a.m. Democracy Now 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Democracy Now 7 p.m. Selectboard 9 p.m. DRB Thursday, November 13 5 a.m. Democracy Now 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 4 P.M. Montpelier Happy Hour 5:15 p.m. DRB 9:30 p.m. Eckankar Channel 1091 Friday, November 7 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. Elder Artist Oral History Project 8:15 a.m. ACSD Board Meeting 12:30 p.m. Snapshot - VT School Funding 4 p.m. Local Sports 8 p.m. Hannaford Career Ctr Board (HCC) 10:30 p.m. AAUW-Finding Hope Within	Saturday, November 8 4:15 a.m. VT School Funding 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga & Yoga for Kids 8 a.m. VT School Funding 9:30 a.m. Finding Hope Within 11 a.m. Elder Artist Oral History 3 p.m. Local Sports 7 p.m. Elder Artist Oral History Sunday, November 9 4:30 a.m. Tai Chi 5 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:30 a.m. Yoga for Kids 7 a.m. Local Sports 12 p.m. VT School Funding 1:30 p.m. School Boards 7 p.m. Pecha Kucha Night Monday, November 10 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. VT School Funding 7:30 a.m. Finding Hope Within 9 a.m. Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m. HCC Board 2 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting 5 p.m. Yoga & Yoga for Kids 6 p.m. Local Sports	8 p.m. State Board of Education Tuesday, November 11 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 1 p.m. VT School Funding 4 p.m. Yoga for Kids & 4:30 p.m. Yoga for Everyone 6 p.m. State Board of Education 10 p.m. VT School Funding Wednesday, November 12 5 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. School Boards 2:15 p.m. FMP Eddy Lecture 4 p.m. Local Sports 7:30 p.m. Festival On the Green 9:30 p.m. Yestermorrow Fall Speaker Thursday, November 13 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. School Boards 4 p.m. Local Sports 8 p.m. Will Miller Social Justice Lecture	

Saturday, Nov. 8, 3-5 p.m., Edgewater Gallery at the Falls, 1 Mill St. Opening reception for a new printmaking exhibit featuring Matt Brown, Daryl Storrs and William Hays; artists will discuss their processes. Free. More info at 802-458-0098, info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

COMMUNITY RADIO BENEFIT CONCERT IN BRISTOL.

Saturday, Nov. 8, 7-9 p.m., Holley Hall. Dance the night away with Scarlet Annie and The Individuals in support of WVVT 94.7 FM, the Five-Town area's future community radio station. Free to attend, donations encouraged. To RSVP, email jonathan@wvvt.org or visit firesidecommunitymedia.org/benefit-show.

THEATER GROUP LIMITED PRESENTS "IF YOU WERE REALLY THERE" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater Main Stage. See Nov. 7 listing.

BRANDON HAS TALENT IN BRANDON.

Saturday Nov. 8, 7-8:30 p.m., Brandon Town Hall. Community talent showcase featuring music, dance, and comedy acts. Admission by donation. More info at brandontownhall.com.

SUNDAY, NOV. 9

SHAPE NOTE SING-A-LONG IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sunday, Nov. 9, 1-3 p.m., Mitchell Green Lounge, McCullough Student Center, 14 Old Chapel Road, Middlebury College. Traditional American four-part a cappella community singing (also called Sacred Harp). No training needed; the tradition emphasizes participation over performance. Led by Professor Emeritus David Rosenberg of the Middlebury Shape Note Singers. Free and open to all.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB FALL SPEAKER PROGRAM: "BRITAIN BY FOOT," IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sun, Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m. Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court. GMC Bread Loaf Section's Morris Earle & Lynn Luginbuhl will show slides and tell tales from their recent hikes in Britain. Refreshments served. Admission is free; all donations support the Green Mountain Club. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

MONDAY, NOV. 10

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: RATTLESNAKE POINT IN SALISBURY.

Nov. 10. A three-mile round trip hike to Rattlesnake Cliffs. Very steep but not scary, gain of about 1,000 feet. Great views. Dogs welcome on leash. For more information, contact Morris Earl at morrisearle@gmail.com or 802-734-0984. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

TUESDAY, NOV. 11

"NI CHAÎNES, NI MAITRES" (NO CHAINS, NO MASTERS) SCREENING IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m., Alexander Twilight Hall Auditorium, Middlebury College, 50 Franklin St. Sixteen-year-old Mati's escape from a Mauritian sugar plantation in 1759, igniting a relentless manhunt. Part of Middlebury's Albertine Cinémathèque French Film Festival. Free. More info at tinyurl.com/FilmsAtCollege.

KIRK WEBSTER BOOK TALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, Nov. 11, 6 p.m., Mini Ilsley Public Library Community Room, National Bank of Middlebury, 30 Main St. Local beekeeper Kirk Webster presents his new book, "Many Best Kept Secrets: A Wonderful and Unusual Life Around Honey Bees."

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12

"CARAVAGGIO" IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, Nov. 12, 11 a.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Part of the Great Art Wednesday Film Series, this dramatic biography explores the life of Caravaggio. Tickets \$15. More info at addisonarts.org/event/caravaggio.

BERNADETTE DESPUJOLS ARTIST TALK IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 4:30-6 p.m., Johnson 204, 78 Chateau Road, Middlebury College. Visiting artist Bernadette Despujols discusses her work exploring intimacy and feminine embodiment through figurative painting, sculpture, video and installation. Free and open to all.

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

CLASSIC FILM CLUB IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Nov. 13, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater, Main Street. Screening of "Rose Tattoo" starring Anna Magnani, followed by discussion. Free. Popcorn provided.

SINGING CIRCLE IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Nov. 13, 5:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. All are welcome to join François Clemmons in a singing circle. Bring your ears, voice, and a smile. Please park at Middlebury Union High School to leave on-site spaces for those with limited mobility.

"NEWSIES" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Nov. 13, 7-9 p.m., Middlebury Union High School Auditorium, 73 Charles Ave. This year's MUHS fall musical tells the story of NYC newsboys who go on strike when Joseph Pulitzer raises newspaper prices. \$11 for adults, \$6 for students and seniors. Tickets available at gofan.co/app/school/VT15095.

"A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE & MURDER" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Presented by Middlebury College Musical Theatre Club. This Tony Award-winning romp features nonstop laughs as eight doomed heirs meet their ends in creative and side-splitting ways. Tickets \$5-\$10.

FRIDAY, NOV. 14

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: RAVEN RIDGE IN MONKTON. Friday, Nov. 14. A 2.8-mile moderate hike on Nature Conservancy protected land with about 490 feet of elevation gain. Trail climbs a steep slope to a ridge with Champlain Valley views and geological features. Hiking pole recommended. Limited to 10 participants. Contact Ruth

Penfield at ruthpenfield@gmail.com or 802-458-1116. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN HANCOCK. Friday, Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m., Hancock Town Hall, 1091 Route 100. Music by The Three Sues and Dick McCormack.

PRE-CONCERT LECTURE BY LARRY HAMBERLIN: TAKÁCS QUARTET AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE. Friday, Nov. 14, 6:15 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Room 125, 72 Porter Field Rd. Learn about the program before the quartet's concert. Free.

"NEWSIES" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Nov. 14, 7-9 p.m. Middlebury Union High School Auditorium, 73 Charles Ave. See Nov. 13 listing.

TAKÁCS QUARTET IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Robison Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. The Grammy-winning quartet performs the Vermont premiere of Clarice Assad's "NEXUS" and works by Haydn and Debussy. Tickets \$30/20/10/5. Info: middlebury.edu/events/event/takacs-quartet-1.

"A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Nov. 13 listing.

SATURDAY, NOV. 15

"A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO

LOVE AND MURDER" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Nov. 15, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Nov. 13 listing.

"NEWSIES" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Nov. 15, 2-4 p.m. Middlebury Union High School Auditorium, 73 Charles Ave. See Nov. 13 listing.

"BANEL & ADAMA" SCREENING IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Nov. 15, 3 p.m., Alexander Twilight Hall Auditorium, Middlebury College, 50 Franklin St. This tragic romance follows two young lovers resisting family duty as drought grips their village. In Pulaar with English subtitles. Part of Middlebury's Albertine Cinémathèque French Film Festival. Free. More info at tinyurl.com/FilmsAtCollege.

"SEVEN CHANCES" SILENT FILM IN BRANDON. Saturday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, 1 Conant Square. Silent 1925 comedy about a man who must marry by 7 p.m. to inherit \$7 million. Starring Buster Keaton. Life music accompaniment. Free; donations welcome. More info at jeffrapsis.com.

SEE MORE CALENDAR LISTINGS ONLINE!
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

Ilsley Library's Classic Film Club Fall/Winter 2025 Session At the Marquis Theater!

Join fellow community film lovers to watch this session's films at the Marquis Theater, followed by a short discussion of the film. What a great opportunity to treat yourself to a delicious southwestern lunch before or even during the film. As always, the popcorn is on us!

This session, our theme is Strong Female Characters. Showings will continue through December.

All films begin at 1:00 pm



November 13
Rose Tattoo
1955



December 11
Thomas Crown
Affair 1968

FREE ADMISSION courtesy of Ilsley Public Library. Marquis is open for lunch beginning at 11:30am.



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UPCOMING MUSIC

Opera Vermont launches historic multi-year cycle of William Grant Still's operas, Nov. 14

Opera Vermont proudly announces a groundbreaking, first-of-its-kind multi-year cycle dedicated to the operatic works of William Grant Still, known as the "Dean of African American Composers." This eight-year journey will present Still's music in its full depth and diversity, beginning Nov. 14 and 15, with "A Bayou Legend," and continuing Nov. 13 and 14, 2026, with the long-awaited world premiere of his opera "Costaso."

All performances will take place at the historic Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph, which will become the epicenter of a new cultural tradition: November will soon be recognized as William Grant Still Month for the arts in Vermont. Opera Vermont invites music lovers, history enthusiasts, and cultural explorers from across America and beyond to join in this historic celebration.

"This is not just an operatic endeavor," said Joshua Collier, Artistic Director of Opera Vermont. "This is a cultural commitment to honor William Grant Still's legacy, to bring long-overlooked masterworks into the repertoire, and to ensure that Vermont



William Grant Still known as "Dean of African American Composers" will be celebrated by Opera Vermont with a multi-year cycle of his performances each November. This month, see "A Bayou Legend" at Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph on Nov. 14 and 15.

COURTESY PHOTO

MORE TUNES

Hear shape note singing

Described as spiritual, joyful, powerful, and raucous, Shape Note (or Sacred Harp) singing is a traditional American style of four-part, a capella, community singing popular in the United States before the Civil War. Come sing at a free and open to all shape note signing gathering on Sunday, Nov. 9, from 1-3 p.m. at the McCullough — Mitchell Green Lounge, on the Middlebury College campus.

Shape Note singing thrives across the US and in the UK, with strongholds in the American South and New England. It is called Shape Note because the notes of the scale are indicated by distinctive shapes and names.

No training or musical ability is necessary; the tradition emphasizes participation, not performance. Led by Professor Emeritus David Rosenberg of the Middlebury Shape Note Singers.

becomes a place where history, music, and community converge in celebration."

The inaugural production, "A Bayou Legend" (1941), is a poignant opera that weaves themes of love, betrayal, and redemption with Still's signature lyricism. The following year will mark an extraordinary milestone with the world

SEE OPERAS ON PAGE 14

Young Masters take the stage in Middlebury

The Young Masters Series debuts at Town Hall Theater with the Scanlon, James & Roy Trio on Friday, Nov. 7, from 6-8 p.m. Hailing from Quebec and Vermont, this trio is united by a deep love for the music and songs of the Northeast. Blending regional traditions with original material, their sound is both rooted and exploratory and brought to life through rich collaboration and deep musicality.

The Young Masters Series showcases talented young artists in their 20s and early 30s who are masters of traditional music. Former Executive Director of Young Traditions Vermont is curating the shows and presenting them at select venues across the state.

Aldor Emerging Artist Award winner **François-Félix Roy** (Festival Trad Montréal 2022) is a rising star in the Québécois traditional

scene. His guitar work and soulful singing bring a vibrant energy paired with the subtle storytelling of a seasoned folk singer.

McKinley James is an internationally performing cellist in both classical and traditional music. She has taught workshops and performed across four continents with degrees from New England Conservatory and McGill University in performance.

Oliver Scanlon, a soulful fiddler, mandolinist, and tunesmith from Vermont, spent nearly a decade performing with the renowned Pete's Posse. With hundreds of performances and eight recording projects under his belt, his playing is as seasoned as it is heartfelt.

Together, they craft music that is grounded in regional traditions with fresh original material



François-Félix Roy, McKinley James and Oliver Scanlon will perform in the Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury on Friday, Nov. 7, from 6-8 p.m.

and a dynamic, collaborative spirit.

The show will take place in the Anderson Studio. Tickets are \$20 and are available via townhalltheater.org, at the THT box office, or by calling 802-382-9222.

FILM SCREENING

Buster Keaton gets 'Seven Chances'

He never smiled on camera, earning him the nickname of "the Great Stone Face." But Buster Keaton's comedies rocked Hollywood's silent era with laughter.

See for yourself with a screening of "Seven Chances" (1925), one of Keaton's landmark feature films, on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m., at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7, Brandon. Admission is free; donations are welcome to help defray expenses.

Live music will be provided by Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based composer who specializes in creating music for silent films.

Adapted from a stage play, "Seven Chances" finds Buster learning that he'll inherit \$7 million if he's married by 7 p.m. on his 27th birthday — that very day!

Buster's hurried attempts to tie the knot on his own go awry. But then a newspaper story changes the game, creating an avalanche of would-be brides who relentlessly pursue Buster as he searches for his one true love before the deadline.

"Seven Chances" was the first screen adaptation

of the now-familiar story, since used in movies ranging from the Three Stooges in "Brideless Groom" (1947) to Gary Sinyor's "The Bachelor" (1999), a romantic comedy starring Chris O'Donnell and Renee Zellwinger.

Keaton, along with Charlie Chaplin and Harold Lloyd, stands today as one of the silent screen's three great clowns. Some critics regard Keaton as the best of all; Roger Ebert wrote in 2002 that "in an extraordinary period from 1920 to 1929, (Keaton) worked without interruption on a series of films that make him, arguably, the greatest actor-director in the history of the movies."

A remarkable pantomime artist, Keaton naturally used his whole body to communicate emotions from sadness to surprise. And in an era with no post-production special effects, Keaton's acrobatic talents enabled him to perform all his own stunts, including some spectacular examples in "Seven Chances."

In reviving Keaton's "Seven Chances," organizers aim to show silent film as it was meant to be seen — in restored prints, on a large screen, with live music, and with an audience.

"All those elements are important parts of the silent film experience," said Rapsis, who



Buster Keaton checks the time in "Seven Chances" (1925), a classic silent comedy to be screened with live music on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. in the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center. Admission is free; donations are welcome to help defray expenses.

will accompany the film. "Recreate those conditions, and classics of early Hollywood such as 'Seven Chances' leap back to life in ways that audiences still find entertaining."

Similar to theatre organists from the silent film era, Rapsis improvises the complete score in real time during the screening.

"Creating a movie score on the fly is kind of a high-wire act, but it can often make for more excitement than if everything is planned out in advance," Rapsis said.

Buster Keaton's "Seven Chances" (1925) will be screened with live music on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. in the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center. Admission is free; donations are welcome to help defray expenses. For more about the music, visit jeffrapsis.com.

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions
"Eighteenth-Century Room from Paris to Vermont."

The exhibition follows the journey of "Le Petit Salon" from Paris to Middlebury via Manhattan, where for 50 years it formed part of the decor of the Bliss family's Gilded Age mansion. At Middlebury, the Petit Salon became part of Le Château, the college's French language dorm, itself a fanciful recreation of a 16th-century Norman manoir. The exhibition incorporates Paris's 1776 exquisite watercolor elevations of Aumont's mansion, as well as studies from his long educational sojourn in Rome and Naples. Included in the exhibition are loans from Bowdoin College, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and the Fine Arts Museum of Besançon. On view through Dec. 7.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"Monochrome: Light, Shadow, Form, and Texture." Stripped to its essentials — light, shadow, form, and texture — black-and-white photography invites viewers to see differently. It distills the world into tone and emotion, allowing mood and meaning to rise to the surface. This exhibit features 35 images in the gallery and another 40 images online, selected by juror Jason Landry. An opening reception will be held on Friday, Nov. 7, from 4-7 p.m. On view through Nov. 28.

SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit henrysheldonmuseum.org

"Stitching Memories: Daughters, Samplers, and Family Records." The six samplers on display in the Judd Harris House were all made by girls whose father or grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War. This local exhibit was curated by Middlebury College student Julia

Breckenridge. On view May 21-Jan. 3.

"Material Narratives: Ornament & Identity."

Organized by students of Professor Erin Sassin's course at Middlebury College, this exhibition is the result of meticulous research and thoughtful curation. Students assembled a diverse collection of objects that show how adornment across centuries and cultures both shapes and reflects the human experience. On view through Jan. 3.

"Vermont Female Farmers." This striking portrait series by JuanCarlos González offers a powerful and intimate look into the lives of farmers shaping the landscape and future of Vermont agriculture. Complementing the photography are agricultural-related artifacts and ephemera from the Museum's collection. These additions create meaningful dialogues between past and present, offering reflections on our Addison County landscape and farming heritage. On view through Jan. 3.

PUZZLES

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ACROSS

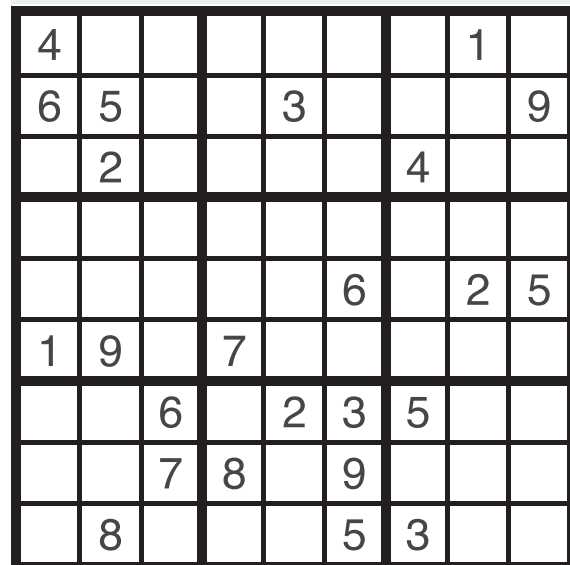
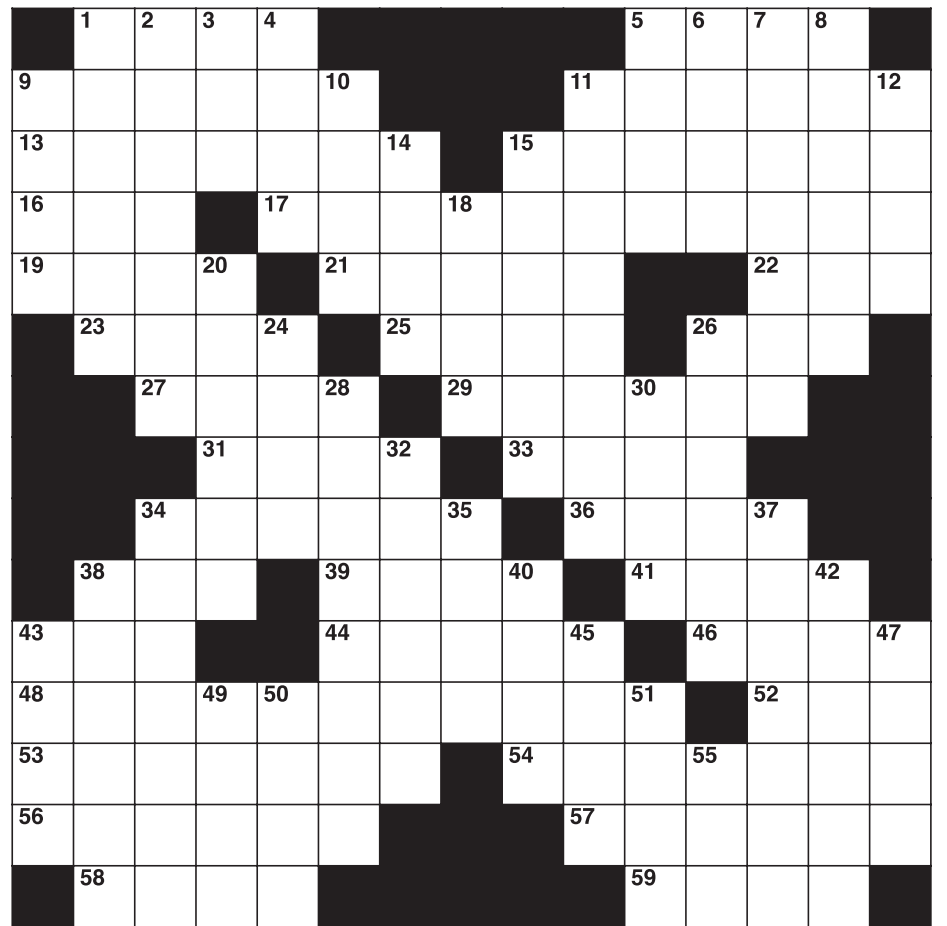
- 1. Difficult
- 5. Coarsely ground corn
- 9. There's one for the "world"
- 11. Loved Romeo
- 13. Sticky situation
- 15. Pelvic areas
- 16. An informal debt instrument
- 17. Cannot be repaired surgically
- 19. A device attached to a workbench
- 21. Related on the mother's side
- 22. Sound unit
- 23. __ Sagan,
- 25. Astronomer
- 26. A disappointing effort
- 27. Steal goods during a riot
- 29. Wakes up
- 31. Hair salon service
- 33. Serenaded
- 34. Looked intensely
- 36. U.S. Air Force expert Robert F.
- 38. A type of cast
- 39. One's duty
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic sun god
- 46. Ancient Greek

City

- 48. Having had the head cut off
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Unwise
- 54. Most unnatural
- 56. Dennis is a notable one
- 57. Ointments
- 58. Students' exam
- 59. Leaked blood

DOWN

- 1. Brave
- 2. Act of awakening
- 3. Jest at
- 4. Sandwich store
- 5. Chapter of the Koran



Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

- 6. Dismounted
- 7. Small vehicle
- 8. Irrked
- 9. One who earns by disreputable dealings
- 10. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 11. Long, mournful lamentation
- 12. Weight unit
- 14. Alone, single
- 15. Decreases
- 18. Indicates beside
- 20. Worn by exposure
- 24. A body of traditions
- 26. College students' ultimate goal
- 28. Amino acid
- 30. Nasal mucus
- 32. US government entity
- 34. Swinish
- 35. Legislative body in Russia
- 37. Grant an exemption to
- 38. Put in advance
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Felt
- 43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 45. Witnesses
- 47. Picnic invaders
- 49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 50. Ancient person of Scotland
- 51. Cheerless
- 55. Unwell

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 15.

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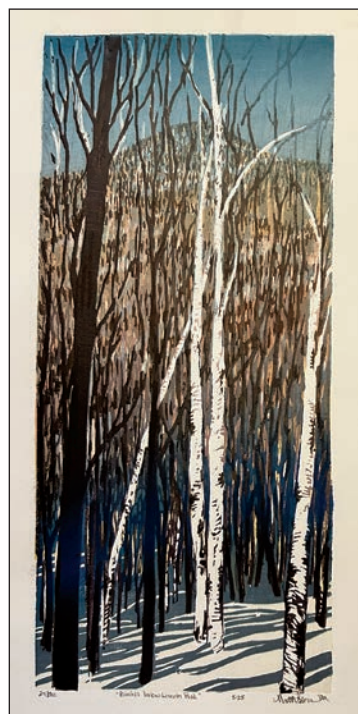
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

carved edges, layered hues, and subtle textures that embody the presence of the artist in every impression.

An opening reception will be held on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 3-5 p.m., when all three artists will discuss their processes. The exhibit will be on view through Dec. 31. For more information, call the gallery at 802-458-0098, or email info@edgewater-gallery-vt.com.



"Look How They Shine 2" by Daryl Storrs.



"Birches below Lincoln Peak" by Matt Brown.



Pet of the WEEK

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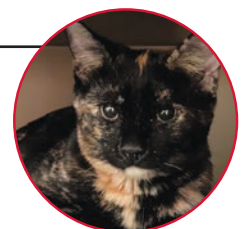
This is **BamBam**! An 8-month-old pittie/cattle dog mix with a goofy personality. He has not had much exposure to the world and is looking for a patient family that is willing to slowly show him all the fun things life has to offer! Bam is shy when meeting new people, but once he's comfortable, his true personality comes out. He's very playful, clumsy, likes treats and to sit next to the people he loves. He's currently getting acclimated to wearing a leash. It will take time, but we're confident he will be a good walking companion in the future. We have limited history on Bam so we're unsure what he's like with other dogs, cats or children. BamBam is very proud to show off his "sit" command.

Buddy



Meet **Buddy**! This little guy is super friendly and ready to be your new family member! He's a little shy when first meeting other cats but he absolutely loves people!

Carly



Carly is a very friendly, lovely girl who arrived to us with two of her siblings. She is ready to be loved and adored by a family and will quickly steal your heart when you meet her.

Pebbles



Meet **Pebbles**! An 8-month-old pittie/cattle dog mix with a goofy personality. She has not had much exposure to the world and is looking for a patient family that is willing to slowly show her all the fun things life has to offer! Pebbles is shy when meeting new people, but once she's comfortable, she will snuggle right up on your lap. Pebbles loves affection and she has a playful side to her. She's currently getting acclimated to wearing a leash. It will take time, but we're confident she will be a good walking companion in the future. We have limited history on Pebbles so we're unsure what she's like with other dogs, cats or children.

Peter



Have you been looking for a handsome orange cat to complete your home and heart? Meet **Peter**, he is so ready to meet his new family. This lovely boy has a ton of love to give and will make an excellent companion. He has previously lived with cats and dogs.



Want to learn more?

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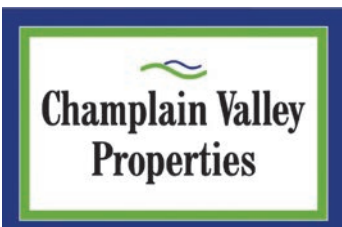
200 BUTTERNUT RIDGE DR., MIDDLEBURY
\$460,000

THE HOME

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Renewed home in Middlebury neighborhood

This lovely home is about four years old. The current owner purchased the property after a major fire and ripped down much of the old structure. The electrical, plumbing, heating, bathrooms, kitchen, floors, windows, sheetrock, roof, siding, etc. were all replaced. The oversized one car garage is insulated and heated. There is also a very nice storage shed in back that has a new one-car garage door and is perfect for additional storage. This beautiful home is located in a very nice older neighborhood with established trees giving the back yard and porch a sense of privacy that is rare to find in a neighborhood.



*This week's property is managed by Champlain Valley Properties.
More info at champlainvalleyproperty.net.*



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MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!
29 SEYMOUR STREET

MLS #5067838 | \$499,000
ZONED: Heritage/Industrial
two buildings, 1.90 ACRES

Prime location for a mixed use development, with the AMTRAK platform across the street and Marble Works just a few steps further—deadline for offers by 11/10 at 9AM.



MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!
86 OSSIE ROAD

MLS #5068258 | \$417,000
3 BD | 2 BA | 1673 SF | 0.26 ACRES

Curb appeal in East Middlebury with many recent improvements, an inviting eat-in kitchen with pantry, built-ins, and charm. Add a lovely porch, elongated garage, blooming perennials, and a level lawn for play.



MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!
376 SOUTH RIDGE DRIVE

MLS #5068284 | \$199,000
SOUTH RIDGE | 0.60 ACRES

Build-ready lot in the South Ridge neighborhood served by town water and sewer. Well-spaced homes in this careful development with mature landscaping, a 7.5 acre public park, and great access to amenities.



MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!
7 EAST ROAD

MLS #5068363 | \$189,000
1 BD | 1 BA | 780 SF | CONDO

This condo is an ultra-manageable size, ready to make your own if you're willing and able to put the work in. Huge potential, proximate to town, and the Mean Woods Trailhead is just down the road!



MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!
MIDDLE ROAD NORTH

MLS #5068334 | \$149,000
0.49 ACRES

Electric, natural gas, public water, and sewer, at the street for this rare in-town building lot just across the road from Middlebury Union Middle School. You'll be close to everything!

Brandon - Beautiful Country Setting



Located in a beautiful country setting with stunning mountain and pastoral views. 4.69 acre lot is mostly wooded. 1st floor consists of large living room with brick fireplace, office/den area, dining room with built-in hutch, kitchen, laundry/mudroom, 2 bedrooms, and full bath. 2nd floor consists of hall/office area, full bath, spacious bedroom w/walk-in closet, and attic storage room with large wall fan. Barn/garage offers 2nd floor additional storage. Convenient location near village/schools/golf/lakes. **Great new price - \$395,000.**



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501 Quaker Street, Ferrisburgh

This well maintained 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath single level home offers simplicity on a lovely country lot. Two car detached garage, with extra bay and 2 sheds offers plenty of space for vehicles and enclosed storage and the level 2-acre yard provides ample space for gardens, play and relaxation.

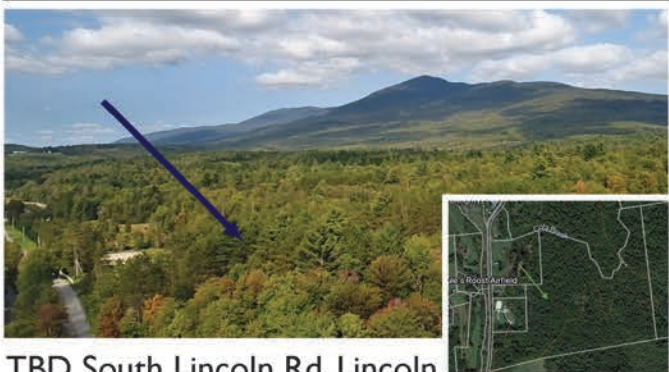
MLS No. 5065515 | \$ 420,000



204 West River Road, Lincoln

Tastefully restored, this 3 bedroom, 2 Bath Lincoln village cape has just undergone a full renovation, enhancing the homes historic character through the seamless integration of modern design elements including new kitchen, baths and limestone veneer plaster walls! Come see it in person.

MLS No. 5055620 | \$ 495,000



TBD South Lincoln Rd, Lincoln

62.3-acre wooded parcel with western view potential and Cota Brook along its northern edge, featuring waterfalls and swimming holes. Ideal for recreation or future development. Close to the New Haven River, hiking, skiing, and a vibrant community. This special land offers natural beauty with long-term potential.

MLS No. 4971457 | \$ 475,000

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OPERAS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

heard opera from one of America's greatest musical voices.

Judith Anne Still, daughter of the composer and steward of his legacy, expressed her enthusiasm for Opera Vermont's initiative:

"It fills me with gratitude and joy to see Opera Vermont embrace my father's vision and music with such care and dedication. This multi-year cycle represents a dream long deferred — the opportunity for audiences to hear William Grant Still's operas not as isolated works, but as part of a living, breathing continuum of American artistry. I am thrilled that Opera Vermont and Joshua Collier will lead the way in honoring my father's legacy, and I

know that my father is also looking forward to sharing these extraordinary

premiere of "Costaso," offering audiences the rare chance to experience a never-before-

works with the world."

By dedicating eight consecutive Novembers to Still's operatic output, Opera Vermont reaffirms its mission to broaden the canon, amplify underrepresented voices, and ensure that Still's contributions to music are celebrated with the prominence they deserve — while also investing in the training and future of young musicians.

MORE ABOUT WILLIAM GRANT STILL

William Grant Still (1895–1978) composed over 200 works, including symphonies, ballets, operas, chamber music and spirituals. He was the first African American to conduct a major American orchestra, the first to have a symphony performed by a leading orchestra, and the first to have an opera performed by a major opera company. His legacy as a pioneer of American music is unmatched, yet his operatic works remain underperformed. Opera Vermont's cycle courageously seeks to change that narrative.

To learn more about William Grant Still, Opera Vermont or to secure tickets visit operavermont.com.



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8682 Vermont Route 22A, Addison

Charming 1870s farmhouse with large rooms and tons of potential. Sited on 13+- beautiful acres with a pond and multiple outbuildings including a chicken coop. The barns have been used for horses, cows and veal. This property is ideal for farming, homesteading, or a peaceful retreat. The home needs some updating- perfect for someone ready to bring this classic beauty back to life. The views and sunsets are amazing. The home is ready to live in while you are planning your updates!

MLS# 5062672

\$469,000



538 Basin Road, Brandon

This spacious 4 BR, 2 BA home sits on 2 usable acres in the charming village of Forest Dale. The first-floor layout offers flexibility for living space, working from home, and formal dining. Recent updates include a new well with filtration and softening system, and owned solar panels allow you to enjoy modern comforts. This home is ready to welcome you. Come experience all that it has to offer - schedule your private showing today.

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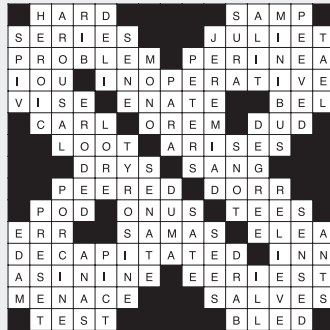
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NOV. 6, 2025



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4	5	1	7	8	9	2	3	6
8	7	6	5	3	2	1	9	4
7	1	5	9	6	3	8	4	2
6	4	2	8	1	7	3	5	9
3	9	8	2	5	4	6	1	7
5	6	3	4	7	8	9	2	1
1	2	4	6	9	5	7	8	3
9	8	7	3	2	1	4	6	5



983 Creek Road
Crown Point, NY
12928

Total Bedrooms: 4 ♦ Total Full Bathrooms: 4
Living Area: 4,100 SF ♦ Lot Size: 29.07 Acres
Year Built: 1800

Extensively renovated 1800s home in historic Crown Point's Ironville hamlet on mostly 29.5 wooded acres with a small pond. 3 car garage, greenhouse, breakfast and family rooms. Large chef's kitchen. Lovely vintage living room and dining area with stone fireplace. The house was originally an Inn including a tavern which remains a charming feature of the home. Drilled well, geothermal heat/cooling, and whole house backup generator. Fiber-based internet service with speeds up to 100MPPS, making remote working ideal. Beautiful 2-level wrap-around porch for watching hummingbirds and wildlife, and enjoying the cool Adirondack weather. Within an hour to all ADK High Peaks, minutes to Lake Champlain/Lake George and all Vermont has to offer. Many ski resorts within easy day travel. This would/ could also be a high-end Air BnB/Rental!

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103 Courst St., Middlebury \$655,000

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MLS# 5052780



196 Lafayette Rd., Bristol \$375,000

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MLS# 5045440



53 High St., Middlebury \$325,000

GREAT RENTAL PROPERTY or for multi-generational living. Currently, 2 one bedroom apartments but could be converted back to a single family hime. Wonderful views and sunsets from all 3 floors looking West over Middlebury proper and the Adirondacks, for spectacular sunsets. Great investment opportunity!
MLS# 5045832



2852 Vermont Rt 22A, Addison \$335,000

THIS 2.4-ACRE HOMESTEAD is a great starter home or retirement home just minutes from Lake Champlain! With 2 BR and 1 bath, this property has many gardens and beautiful places to enjoy an amazing view of the Adirondacks. Just 5 minutes to Vergennes, 12 minutes to Middlebury, 2 minutes to Addison 4 Corners. Come and see what this cute home has to offer!
MLS# 5063539



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Welcome Stick Season with Town Hall Theater

A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder

Presented by Middlebury College Musical Theatre Club
 Thu Nov 13th & Fri Nov 14th, 7:30pm; Sat Nov 15th, 2pm & 7:30pm
 Tickets: \$5-\$10

This musical comedy follows the uproarious journey of a charming young man who discovers he's ninth in line to inherit a fortune and sets out to speed up the process in the most outrageous, side-splitting ways possible. With quick wit, clever songs, and larger-than-life characters, this show promises an evening of laughs, mischief, and murderously good fun.



The Ben Garnett Trio Featuring Brittany Haas

PM Sundays Presented by THT & Valley Stage Productions

Sun Nov 16th, 4-6pm
 Tickets: \$15-\$28

The trio debuts an album of entirely original music, featuring acoustic guitar, fiddle, and bass, rounding out their sets with a selection of bluegrass and fiddle tunes, jazz standards, and pop songs. Brittany Haas, widely regarded as one of the most influential fiddlers of her generation, has performed on Late Night with David Letterman and Saturday Night Live.

The Loop with Laurel Jenkins & Moira Smiley

Thu Nov 20th, 6-8pm
 Free with registration

Have you ever wanted to be part of the artistic process? THT's new series, The Loop, invites you into the creations of professional artists. The launch event of The Loop features the interdisciplinary partnership of dancer/choreographer Laurel Jenkins and Grammy-nominated singer/composer Moira Smiley. Join us at 6pm for a happy hour, followed by a work-in-progress performance.



Clint Bierman's Listening Room

Sat Nov 22nd, 7-9pm
 Tickets: \$20-\$35

Legendary local musician Clint Bierman of the Grift, accompanied by a three-piece band, debuts his most personal songwriting from the past two decades. This intimate "listening room" experience at Town Hall Theater's Anderson Studio will feature songs from the vault and his most vulnerable work as well as a sneak peek of a new album in development. It's an immersive listening experience made for music lovers.

What's Coming Up

Jackson Gallery
Shadow, Light, & In Between
 Paintings by Thomas Munschauer
 Opening Nov 7, 5pm
 Show Nov 7 - Jan 17, FREE

The MET: Live in HD
La Bohème
 Nov 8, 1pm
 12:15pm pre-show talk
 Tickets: \$10-\$24

Great Art Wednesday
 Film Series
Caravaggio
 Nov 12, 11am
 Tickets: \$15

Warren Miller's
Sno-ciety
 Nov 19 & 20, 7:30pm
 Tickets: \$25

The MET: Live in HD
Arabella
 Nov 22, 1pm
 12:15pm pre-show talk
 Tickets: \$10-\$24

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THT would like to thank The Vermont Arts Council and those who have donated to Membership. We couldn't do this without you!



A SALUTE TO

VETERANS

A publication of the Addison Independent • Thursday, November 6, 2025



Quilts wrap veterans in love, appreciation

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Society is always looking for ways to show appreciation to its veterans, who are at times asked to put themselves in harm's way to ensure the safety and freedom of others.

That appreciation officially manifests with the federal government's provision of medical aid through the VA, housing assistance and other earned benefits. And there is the official holiday — Veterans Day — every Nov. 11.

Meanwhile, among the private groups that support veterans is one that has spent the past 22 years stitching together fantastic fabric creations designed to metaphorically and literally impart warmth to the nation's veterans. The group is called "Quilts of Valor," a national organization of avid craftspeople who each year make hundreds of quilts that are then given to those who served (or who continue to do so).

Representatives of Quilts of Valor and Ferrisburgh's Patriotic Spirits turned out at the Middlebury Quilt Show on Saturday, Oct. 11, to drape seven area veterans (and one from Maine) in fabric finery featuring stars, stripes, red, white, blue, deer, soldier silhouettes and other "wow" factors.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation was launched in 2003 by Catherine Roberts. It was a time when her son had been deployed to Iraq. The quilts, she reasoned, would give veterans a lift and a reminder of home during stressful times.

"The model appeared simple: have a volunteer team who would donate their

time and materials to make a quilt. One person would piece the top and the other would quilt it," Roberts wrote of her successful idea, which is being put into practice in dozens of states throughout the country.

The organization's members have given out more than 420,000 quilts so far, and counting.

Here in Addison County, Ferrisburgh's Patriotic Spirits quilting group has stitched together at least 300 Quilts of Valor since forming around 17 years ago. The group's leader is a Vietnam veteran who served a combined 20 years with the U.S. Navy and Army: Andre Emmell, 84.

You might have recently seen him profiled as one of WCAX Channel 3's "Super Seniors." On Oct. 11, Emmell — appropriately wearing a red, white and blue Mt. Rushmore shirt — was a VIQ (very important quilter) at the Middlebury show. He began needlework as a necessity — repairing his siblings' clothes in a cash-strapped, single-parent household — and threw himself into quilting in 1998.

Emmell had been an avid woodworker, and quilting seemed like a natural progression, albeit in a more two-dimensional realm.

"Cutting pieces of fabric and putting them back together in a design," he said of the allure of the craft. "It fascinates me how different everything can be."

As a veteran, Emmell gladly donated his time to Quilts of Valor after learning of the organization in 2003. It's his main



VETERANS DAVID BEAROR, left, and Michael Audet are draped in the splendor of new quilts made by local craftspeople as part of a Quilts of Valor program presentation at last month's Milk & Honey Quilters Guild Show.

Independent photo/John Flowers

quilting focus these days. He and a handful of other Patriotic Spirits members gather at Emmell's home each month for potluck dinner and a day of quilting. He has a long arm quilting machine to help the group with their noble endeavor.

Quilts of Valor recipients are most often nominated by individuals, service groups and/or American Legion posts. Sometimes the nomination comes with a design request, but the quilter is usually in charge of the quilt design. They are guided by the nation's colors, patriotic symbolism and even a veteran's favorite hobby — such as

deer hunting.

While the quilters hope the recipients use their creations to keep warm, some veterans choose to display them as wall hangings.

"I say, 'Use them!'" said Lynn Carrier, the Quilts of Valor Foundation's Vermont coordinator. "Cuddle up in it and use it on your bed."

Carrier joined the foundation effort in 2006 and estimates she's made more than 200 quilts for the cause. She comes from a family of veterans, and her reason for

(See Quilts, Page 12)

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present and future

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Bristol Legionnaires elected to national posts

By IAN CURRY

BRISTOL — In late August, two members of Bristol's American Legion Post 19 — Ron LaRose and Jeremy Revell — were elected to national positions in the American Legion; a move that both men called unprecedented.

At the 106th annual American Legion National Convention in Tampa, Fla., Post 19 Commander Ron LaRose was elected as the American Legion National Vice Commander for the Northeast Region, and Jeremy Revell was elected as the Sons of the American Legion National Vice Commander for the Northeast Region.

LaRose noted that occasionally two people from the same state will be elected to national positions, but that its "unheard of with both men coming from the same American Legion Post to serve in the same position representing the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion."

Neither LaRose nor Revell could explain why the national organization decided to choose two members from Post 19, with Revell saying, "It may just have been a little bit of happenstance that it worked out this year."

However, what is clear is how dedicated



"Addison County is a very tightknit community and as a community we always show up for each other. That's what propelled me to keep working with the American Legion."

— Jeremy Revell



both LaRose and Revell are to serving our veterans and our wider Addison County community.

"We refer to the American Legion as the Legion Family," LaRose told the *Independent*.

LaRose, a longtime Bristol resident, has been a member of the American Legion since 1969 and has been Post Commander for the past 21 years. LaRose is a retired lieutenant colonel who spent 39 years with the U.S. Army and Vermont Army National Guard. He served in several positions throughout his commissioned years, including as Commander of an Artillery Battery, State Safety Manager at State Headquarters and Assistant Chief of Staff.

(See National posts, Page 13)

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Those who served tell their own stories at Vets Town Halls this November



VETERAN RACHEL WYLIE speaks at a Vets Town Hall.

VERMONT — A series of public sharing events where veterans are looking to increase understanding between themselves and civilians will continue across Vermont in coming days, including in the Champlain Valley.

At these Vets Town Hall, which began at the Vermont Statehouse on Nov. 2, veterans are invited to tell their community about their experiences serving in the military, and how those experiences have affected them. Non-veterans are encouraged to attend and listen. Vets Town Halls are free and nonpolitical, and all perspectives are valued.

“It has been said that the first duty or act of love is to listen,” says James Ehlers, former naval officer and emcee of the Nov. 2 Central Vermont Vets Town Hall. “In remembrance of Veterans Day, we will have the opportunity to listen to our veteran neighbors as they bravely share with us their stories of what it has been like to answer our country’s call to serve. No left. No right. No activists. No patriots. No grandstanding. Just Vermonters. Coming together in an act of love. Please join us.”

The series will continue in Bennington and Rutland on Nov. 7; Brattleboro, Colchester and St. Johnsbury on Nov. 9, and Charlotte on Nov. 14.

Vets Town Halls have taken place in Vermont since 2017, first in Burlington, and later at different locations throughout the state. The event format was originated by author Sebastian Junger (whose books include “War” and “Tribe”), who partnered

with Rep. Seth Moulton on the first such event in Marblehead, Mass., in 2015. In 2022, Junger, together with Bristol, Vt., resident and U.S. Marine Corps veteran Jon Turner, as well as local event planner Kristen Eaton, formed the nonprofit Vets Town Hall. Nationally, Vets Town Hall provides resources and best practices to those interested in starting these events. Here in Vermont, the nonprofit directly facilitates some events and helps with publicity and outreach for all in-state Vets Town Halls.

Veterans who would like to speak at this November’s events can indicate that when registering or reach out to event organizers. Time permitting, veterans are also welcome to sign up to speak during the events themselves. RSVPs, at vtvetstownhall.org, are optional but encouraged for all attendees at all events. (RSVPs are required for the Rutland pre-event meal.) All events are free; donations are gratefully accepted. Questions may be directed to Kristen Eaton at vermont@vetstownhall.org.

WHAT/WHEN/WHERE

• **Bennington Vets Town Hall:** Friday, Nov. 7, at 1 p.m., at Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington. Snacks will be available.

• **Rutland Vets Town Hall:** Friday, Nov. 7, at the Godnick Adult Center, Rutland. 5:30 p.m. meal, 6 p.m. event. RSVP required for the pre-event meal (optional for the Vets Town Hall itself).

(See Town halls, Page 11)

We salute all military personnel for the sacrifices they have made for our freedom.

Post 19 meets at 7pm the 4th Wednesday of every month

Brick forms for the Memorial are still available.

US NAVY RE W/2 KOREA W/2 MAN 30-04-43 TO 02-02-72	US ARMY SGT USMC KOREA 47-52 "YOUR LOVING FAMILY"	US NAVY BROTHERS DONALD BEDARD ROBERT BEDARD MICHAEL BEDARD BRADLEY BEDARD DAVID BEDARD	PTC RALPH W US ARMY W/2
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Bristol American Legion, Inc. Post 19

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AMERICA'S WARS IN THE PAST CENTURY

WORLD WAR I (1917 - 1918)

Total Forces 4,734,991
 Battle Deaths 53,402
 Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) 63,114
 Wounded 204,002

WORLD WAR II (1941 - 1945)

Total Forces 16,112,566
 Battle Deaths 291,557
 Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) 113,842
 Wounded 670,846

KOREAN WAR (1950 - 1953)

Total Forces 5,720,000
 Battle Deaths 33,739
 Other Deaths (in Theater) 2,835
 Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) 17,672
 Wounded 103,284

GULF WAR (1990 - 1991)

Total Forces 2,225,000
 Battle Deaths 148
 Other Deaths (in Theater) 235
 Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) 1,565
 Wounded 467

VIETNAM WAR (1964 - 1975)

Total Forces 8,744,000
 Battle Deaths 47,434
 Other Deaths (in Theater) 10,786
 Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) 32,000
 Wounded 153,303

IRAQ WAR (2003 - 2011)

Total Forces 192,000
 Killed 4,507
 Wounded 32,242

AFGHANISTAN WAR (2001 - 2021)

Total Forces 800,000 +
 Killed 2,461
 Wounded 20,698

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Day National Committee



Saluting our Veterans



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The American Legion - Middlebury Post 27

REMEMBER THAT FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.

Fort Ticonderoga hosts immersive real time revolution living history event on Saturday

TICONDEROGA, N.Y. — In honor of Veterans Day, Fort Ticonderoga is offering free for all active and retired military personnel an immersive Real Time Revolution living history event on Saturday, Nov. 8. It is a salute to veterans' service in the defense of



the United States, beginning with the first citizen-soldiers of 1775.

Visitors will step into Fort Ticonderoga across

Lake Champlain in Ticonderoga, N.Y., as it appeared 250 years ago, capturing a moment of triumph and trepidation for the Northern Department of the Continental Army. Discover the challenges of army life as New York and New England soldiers reached the end of their first campaign season, uncertain if they would stay with the army.

"November 1775 was a fascinating time

for the American cause," said Fort Ticonderoga Vice President of Public History Stuart Lillie. "The Continental Army had to continue fighting even as they were re-raising their army. The fact that the army did not collapse in this moment is a testament to the service of American veterans who did re-enlist, even when the comfort of home called."

Experience the Revolution in "Real Time." Through dynamic demonstrations and hands-on activities, you will:

• **Witness Weapons Demonstrations:** Go beyond loading and firing and explore the many flintlock arms carried by American soldiers assembling at Ticonderoga in 1775. See captured cannons from recent victories at St. Jean and Chambly dragged and scaled by Ticonderoga's garrison.

• **Soldier and Family Life:** Discover how economy and comfort were balanced on the

shores of frozen Lake Champlain. See the sights and smell the aromas of the respectable dinner that soldiers and their families enjoyed together. Try the games that American soldiers' children enjoyed between their chores. See carpentry tools in action and discover the ongoing work as the soldiers' section, split, and stack wood to stockpile enough fuel to keep the garrison warm.

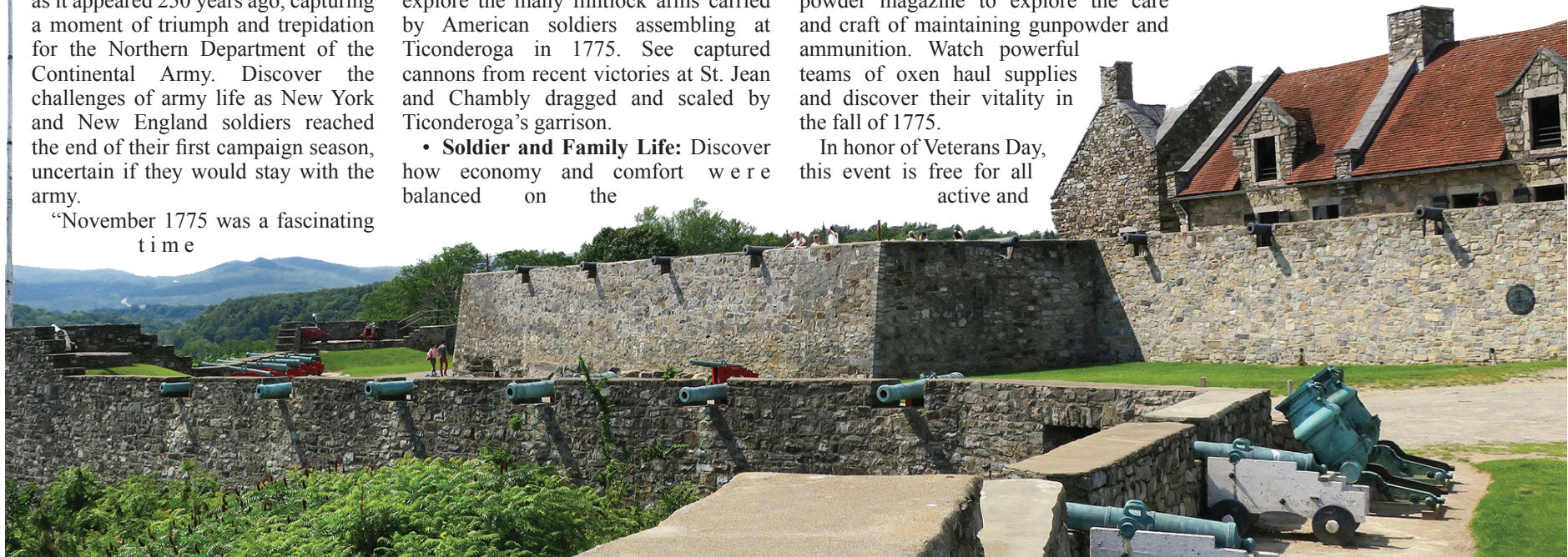
• **Historic Trades:** Feel different leathers and fabrics and watch the skills of repairing shoes and sewing winter clothing. Step inside Fort Ticonderoga's powder magazine to explore the care and craft of maintaining gunpowder and ammunition. Watch powerful teams of oxen haul supplies and discover their vitality in the fall of 1775.

In honor of Veterans Day, this event is free for all active and

retired military personnel, as well as Fort Ticonderoga Members and Ticonderoga Ambassador Pass Holders.

This Real Time Revolution event is part of Fort Ticonderoga's new Winter Quarters season schedule. From now through April, visitors can explore the fort through a more intimate experience, featuring lively living history events, engaging seminars, specialty programs, and hands-on workshops.

For the full visitor schedule and other details, visit www.fortticonderoga.org.



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VERGENNES

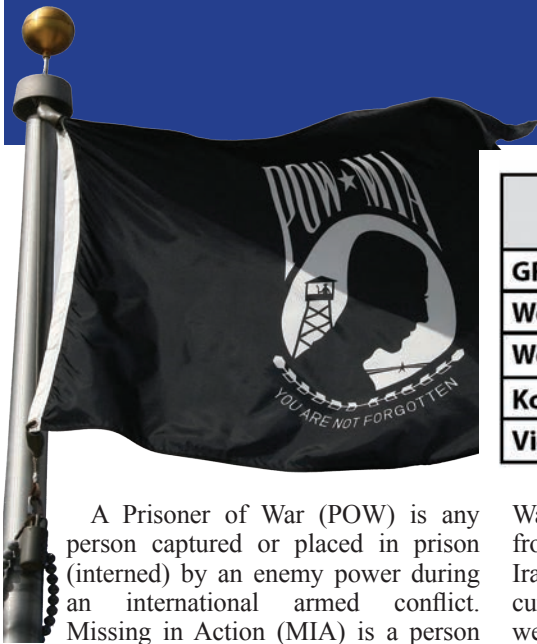
American Legion Post #14

Auxiliary Unit # 14

SAL Detachment #14



POW AND MIA



Name	Captured and Interned	Died While POW	Returned to U.S. Military Control	Refused to Return
GRAND TOTAL	142,186	16,985	125,180	21
World War I	4,120	147	3,973	–
World War II	130,201	14,072	116,129	–
Korean War	7,140	2,701	4,418	21
Vietnam War	725	65	660	–

A Prisoner of War (POW) is any person captured or placed in prison (interned) by an enemy power during an international armed conflict. Missing in Action (MIA) is a person whose status and/or whereabouts is unknown. A known POW is not “MIA,” but a person “MIA” may be an unidentified POW. MIA status is often the temporary report until a service person’s whereabouts can be identified and his or her status confirmed. Sadly, some service members’ status becomes permanently MIA. Military POWs and MIAs are all Veterans.

According to the Pentagon’s Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), as of Aug. 8, 2024, there are more than 81,200 unaccounted for U.S. personnel, including 72,044 from World War II; 7,465 from the Korean

War; 126 from the Cold War; 1,575 from the Vietnam War; and six from Iraq and other recent conflicts. For current counts, please visit DPAA’s website at www.dpaa.mil.

The distinctive black and white POW/MIA flag was adopted in 1972 as the official emblem of the National League of POW/MIA Families. Congress has approved displaying the POW/MIA flag at all military and VA facilities.

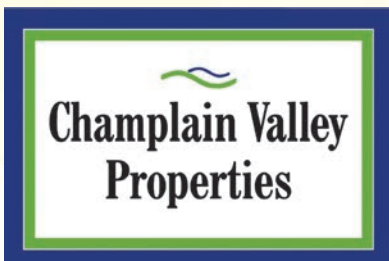
In 2019, the National POW/MIA Flag Act was signed into law, requiring the POW/MIA flag to be flown on designated federal properties, including the U.S. Capitol Building and the White House “on all days the U.S. Flag is flown” and “in a manner designed to ensure visibility to the public.”

POWs and MIAs remain part of

the Nation’s Veteran community, and they should never be forgotten, or their

sacrifice considered less than that of any other Veteran of the United States.

We join our entire Community in thanking our Veterans and their families for their Service.



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Amy Young
(802) 345-8490
amycvprop@gmail.com



Liz Marino
(802) 989-1043
lizcvprop@gmail.com



Lt. James Bouvier
 United States Army Air Corps
 Grafton-Underwood, England, B-17 pilot, POW
My Hero

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE LAROSE



SFC Lawrence "Toot" Bouvier
 United States Army Air Corps
 World War II - Philippines and New Guinea;
 Pilot L-4 Grasshopper,
 Recon/Forward Observer

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE LAROSE, NIECE



Chris Cammack
 United States Army, Captain
 OIF 1, 3 & 5
We might not follow orders - okay, fine, Mom says the correct word is "instructions" - but we appreciate that you try to give them. We love that kids everywhere see you as a goofy, grown-up-ish child who just wants to play and we feel lucky that we get you for our dad. Thank you for giving up the fun toys and down range adventures to come home safe for us. We love you!

SUBMITTED BY: GEORGE, GENEVIEVE, FRANCIS, ADELAIDE & CORBIN CAMMACK



Christopher P. J. Cousino
 Commander, United States Navy (Retired)
 29 years service, enlisted and commissioned.
 Served on ships out of San Diego and Norfolk, deploying to the South Pacific and Persian Gulf. Deployed for one year to Afghanistan and Kabul, six months in Kuwait, one year in Bahrain. Recent tours in Washington Navy Yard, the Pentagon, and Operation Warp Speed Task Force.

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE LAROSE



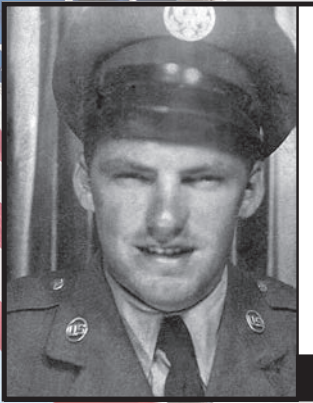
Colin Doolan
 A highly decorated Sergeant Major in the US Army who served in all major camps

SUBMITTED BY: JIM DOOLAN



SGT Emile "Frenchie" Ethier
 United States Army- World War II
 Ordnance Corps - Served 44 months in Germany and North Africa

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE LAROSE, NIECE



Lucien C. Farnsworth
 Airman First Class
 U.S. Air Force
 Stationed in Korea, Japan, and Germany
Thank you Lucien and Dad & Grandpa and Papa for all you did in the service, 1950-1954. We love you very much. We miss you.
 Your Loving Family.

SUBMITTED BY: YOUR FAMILY



Larry Grace, Jr.
 Army CW5; Vermont National Guard; 2 Tours Afghanistan. Larry's military career began in the Marines...
On this day, we salute you, Brother, and all veterans for your service to our country.

SUBMITTED BY: CHERYL L. GRACE (VERGENNES) & DENNY GRACE LATHROP (BRISTOL)

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Larry Grace, Sr.

Army CPL; Korea

On this day, we salute you, Dad, and all veterans for your service to our country.

SUBMITTED BY: CHERYL L. GRACE (VERGENNES) & DENNY GRACE LATHROP (BRISTOL)



LTC Ronald LaRose

United States Army
Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; 1/40 Field Artillery, 3rd Armored Division, Germany, Pentagon

Always proud of your 39 years of service.

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE LAROSE



Lawrence A. Lefebvre

US Navy Gunner's Mate
Mediterranean, World War II

We miss you, Dad!

SUBMITTED BY: JACQUI HOOD



Lawrence J. Lefebvre

US Navy Seabees MCB-11, E4
Bethesda, MD; Indian Head, MD; Port Hueneme, CA; Camp Rhodes, Vietnam

Your family and friends are proud of your service to our country as well as to the work you have done to make the state of Vermont a better place to live and work throughout your working years.

We love you!

SUBMITTED BY: JACQUI HOOD



Thomas Morgan

Lieutenant Colonel
Air Force

South Korea, Italy, Alaska and Iraq

To us, you are husband, father, son, brother, and friend. We sometimes forget that you are also a warrior. On this day, may you realize how loved and appreciated you are for your service.
Happy Veterans Day.

SUBMITTED BY: IRENA PAVLIN

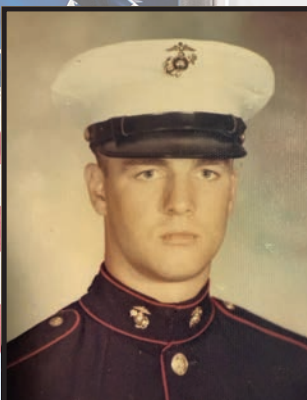


Michael Prime

United States Army, Sergeant
Fort Hood, Texas

We want to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering dedication, strength, and sacrifice. Your courage and service remind us every day of what it means to lead with integrity and love. We are so proud of you and thankful for all that you do to protect and serve. You are our hero, today and always.

WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE,
JACKIE, JOCELYN, JONATHAN, OAKLEY, AND AMELIA



PFC Kris D. Roscoe

United States Marine Corps
3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Vietnam

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE LAROSE, COUSIN



SGT Leonard "Flip" Roscoe

United States Army
Combat Medic - World War II; Battle of the Bulge - Ardennes

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE LAROSE, NIECE

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successful. You served with honor and you deserve
considerable respect.*

Thank you for defending our freedom.

SUBMITTED BY: GARY STEADMAN

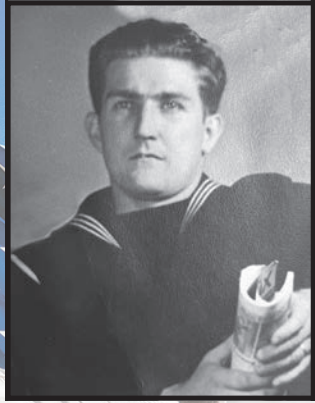


Allen Vigotty

Army, Military Police Corps
Pusan, South Korea

*Remembering your devotion to our country
during the Korean War,
with love and gratitude.*

SUBMITTED BY - AGNES VIGOTTY & PATRICIA LEWIS



Rob Young

Aviation Machinist Mate Third Class
United States Navy
Floyd Bennett Field

He was so proud to have served.

SUBMITTED BY - RON HOLMES



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November 11, 2025

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Town halls

(Continued from Page 4)

- **Champlain Valley Vets Town Hall:** Sunday, Nov. 9, at 1 p.m., at McCarthy Arts Center, Saint Michael's College, Colchester. Refreshments will be available.
- **Brattleboro Vets Town Hall:** Sunday, Nov. 9, at 1 p.m., at American Legion Post 5, Brattleboro. Potluck to follow.
- **NEK Vets Town Hall:** Sunday, Nov. 9, at 1 p.m., at Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. Snacks will be available.
- **Charlotte Vets Town Hall:** Friday, Nov. 14, at 6:30 p.m., at Charlotte's

Grange Hall. Snacks will be available.

DESCRIPTION

Veterans are invited to speak about their experiences serving in the military, and how those experiences have affected them. Non-veterans are encouraged to attend and listen. The goal is to increase understanding between veterans and nonveterans in our community. These events are nonpolitical, and all perspectives are valued.

LEARN MORE & RSVP

vtvetstownhall.org, vermont@vtvetstownhall.org. RSVPs are optional but encouraged. Events are free and open to all. Donations are gratefully accepted.



VETERAN JON TURNER of Bristol emcee's at a Vets Town Hall a few years back.

What veterans can say at town hall

At a Vets Town Hall, veterans of any era who have served in any capacity have the right to stand before their community and speak for up to ten minutes.

Tell us what your service means to you.

All perspectives are valued. We're here to listen to whatever you want to say to your community, and to learn about what it was like to serve in the wars that this nation has chosen to fight.

Please tell us about your *own* experiences, whatever they may be, rather than speaking broadly about an issue or organization. You're a member of our community, and it's your stories,

reflections, and insights that we're anxious to hear.

Your talk does not need to be polished or scripted. You're not here to entertain or impress people, but to share something meaningful. Ideally, try to speak in the way you might if relating your experiences to a spouse, close friend, or family member. Speaking this way can be an act of courage in itself, and of great value to both you and your listeners.

Pre-registration is optional, but helps organizers plan.

If you're considering speaking but prefer not to register, we encourage you to attend. After preregistered speakers

go, the host will take speakers from the floor, time permitting. The goal is for every veteran who would like to speak to have a chance to do so.

Of course, veterans (and all community members) are also welcome to simply attend and listen.

Here are some starting points (but don't feel limited by this list):

1. During your military service, what surprised you most about yourself?
2. Why did you join?
3. What was your hardest day?
4. What do you miss?
5. Tell us about some of the items, both practical and personal, that you carried

with you while on deployment.

6. How did you stay in touch with family and friends back home?

7. How does your time in the military affect your daily life today?

8. When did you leave the military? What was that process like?

9. What or who has helped you in the transition from military to civilian life? What has been challenging or surprising about that transition?

10. What questions do you wish civilians would ask when they learn that you're a vet?

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Quilts

(Continued from Page 2)

being such an avid Quilts of Valor maker is simple.

“I’m doing this to thank these guys for what they’re doing,” she said, as she and her husband staffed the Quilts of Valor Foundation booth at the Middlebury Quilt Show. “They’ve been to hell and back.”

Carrier has been a quilter more than 60 years, starting as a 4-H’er. She can do just about anything with a piece of fabric, needle and thread.

“I even made my wedding dress,” she beamed.

She proudly stood by one of her works of art, featuring the silhouette of a returning serviceman hoisting his daughter into the air.

Making the quilts is indeed a labor of love; the hardest part can be giving them away. Not because the quilters want to hang onto them; it’s the touching poem that’s recited at each Quilts of Valor Foundation ceremony as the quilts are presented. The first four lines:

“A few pieces of cloth from people who care

*To honor your service, it only seems fair.
Carefully chosen materials of red, white and blue*

Sewn together for those patriotic and true.”

“I can’t get through it without crying,” Emmell acknowledged.

So Patriotic Spirits member Betsy Knox did the honors for last month’s eight Quilts

of Valor recipients, following a presentation ceremony emceed by former Gov. James Douglas of Middlebury. Recipients included Addison County residents (and veterans) Michael Audet, David C. Bearor, Shawn Cook, William Rehn, Keith Smith, Bayne Marvin Stone and George Truax; and Mary Jane Shaw of Maine.

“It’s indeed a small gesture, but we think an important one, to show once again that we value your service, we care about you, and will continue to care about you throughout the remainder of your lives,” Douglas told the recipients. “We want to offer you this token of appreciation so that you’ll remember the love and support Vermonters have for you and what you did for the United States of America.”

Shawn Cook, proudly draped in his quilt, served in the U.S. Army from 1988-2009. Raised in Bristol and now living in Middlebury, Cook is tech director at the EastView retirement community.

Cook was nominated by the very active quilters’ group at EastView.

He loves his new quilt and says he plans to “display it, with honor.”

Cook said veterans are grateful to hear people thank them for their service. At the same time, he emphasized the gratitude goes both ways.

“We give thanks for your support,” he said. “We couldn’t do it without (folks on the home front).”

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



ANDRE EMMELL, LEADER of a Ferrisburgh quilting group called Patriotic Spirits, stands in front of one of his creative contributions to the Quilts of Valor program. Eight veterans received quilts through the program at the Milk & Honey Quilters Guild Show last month at the Middlebury Recreation Facility.


Independent photo/John Flowers

In honor of
our nation’s
Military Veterans,
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National posts

(Continued from Page 3)

LaRose was also one of the first National Guard officers in the country to take up an assignment outside the United States. He was selected for the “Captains to Europe Program,” serving for three years with the 40th Field Artillery, 3rd Armored Division, Hanau, Federal Republic of Germany, where he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Achievement Medal. Upon his retirement, he was also awarded the Legion of Merit.

But LaRose’s service didn’t end there. He’s proud to continue serving his fellow veterans and local community through the American Legion.

“We help with Little League, Legion Baseball, we contribute to 4th of July fireworks and school organizations,” LaRose said, listing off a few of the projects Post 19 contributes to. He noted that Post 19 recently contributed \$500 to a food drive serving the five-town area.

“This is what the Legion is all about,” he said.

Regarding his new role as National Vice Commander for the Northeast Region, LaRose told the *Independent* that he plans to bring stability, knowledge and experience to the national organization. He said the new role will see him visit American Legion posts throughout 12 states in the Northeast. He hopes that communicating and working with other

Legion members will strengthen local posts in Addison County and Vermont in general.

LaRose said he’s particularly keen to gain perspective on how other posts are attracting younger veterans, who he said have been somewhat reluctant to get involved with the Legion.

“Hopefully I will learn from other states about what they’re doing to get younger veterans in the Legion ... I’ll bring that information back to Vermont to see what we could do,” he said.

Jeremy Revell echoed those sentiments, saying that communication with Legion members throughout the region will be essential to his new role as the Sons of the American Legion National Vice Commander for the Northeast Region.

“My biggest interest is going to these different states and getting a sense of what they do, what works for them, what are their big projects. From there, my goal is communication,” Revell said.

Revell has been a member of the Sons of the American Legion for 24 years. He isn’t a veteran himself but qualifies for membership through his great-grandfather Alexander H. Revell II, who served in the U.S. Army during World War I, and his grandfathers, Alexander H. Revell III and Lorin Leuthold, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Navy, respectively, in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

“The American legion was a way for me to honor the time they had put in service to our country,” he said.

Revell, a longtime Lincoln resident, points to his family’s long history of volunteerism, both for the country and the Addison County community, as motivation for his work with the Legion.

“I grew up in a family that was very volunteer oriented. My mother was a lister, my father was a volunteer firefighter,” Revell said.

Revell himself spent 10 years coaching youth hockey in Middlebury, but after other commitments prevented him from continuing, he looked for other ways to serve his community.

“I started talking to some of the leadership guys and helping out in the kitchen and from there I really got a sense of what the American Legion does within our own communities,” he said.

Revell told the *Independent* he’s proud to be a part of the many different support programs the Legion offers local veterans. He pointed out one of his favorites: the annual Santa Bus ride during which members distribute giftbags to veterans, the elderly and children.

“Addison County is a very tightknit

community and as a community we always show up for each other. That’s what propelled me to keep working with the American Legion.”

Like LaRose, Revell is excited to travel the region and interact with other Legion posts that could provide Vermont posts with new ideas on how to support local veterans and community members.

“My job is to take those lightbulb projects and pass them along and make sure that other folks in my region know what’s going on so they may be inspired by what’s happening in another state,” Revell said.

“Communication is really our lifeline,” he added.


Both men are excited to continue serving Post 19 and the Addison County community through their new national roles, whether its supporting youth baseball, giving presents to veterans or awarding scholarships to local highschoolers. Ron LaRose told the *Independent* he’s confident that spirit of service and sacrifice will continue to pass on through the generations.

“When younger people see us on the bandstand recognizing those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, that opens their eyes,” LaRose said.



“Hopefully I will learn from other states about what they’re doing to get younger veterans in the Legion ... I’ll bring that information back to Vermont to see what we could do.”
— Ron LaRose

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Some service members earn the Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the United States' highest award for military valor in action. Signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, The Medal of Honor was the nation's first valor Medal and remains at the top of the military's "pyramid of honor." The Medal represents the courage, integrity, sacrifice, commitment, citizenship and patriotism displayed by those awarded it. Since its first presentation in 1863, just over 3,500 Medals have been awarded, a very small percentage of the over 40 million individuals who have served in the United States Armed Forces. As of June 2024, there were only 61 living

Medal of Honor Recipients from all conflicts.

While the Medal of Honor is an individual, not a unit award, as a group, the recipients will tell you that they wear the Medal for those who didn't come home and in honor of all those with whom they served.

AWARDING THE MEDAL

The standards to award the Medal of Honor have evolved over time, but the Medal has always stood for actions "above and beyond the call of duty." The current criteria were established in 1963 during the Vietnam War.

The Medal is authorized for any

military service member who "distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty"

- While engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;
- While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party."

All recommendations require thorough reports on the act itself, the battlefield and its setting; at least two sworn eyewitness statements; and any other compelling evidence that can be gathered. Recommendation packets must be approved all the way up the military command structure, ending with the United States President as the Commander-in-Chief.

By Federal Statute, recommendations for the Medal must be submitted within 3 years of the valorous act and the Medal must be presented within 5 years. Any submissions outside of this timeline

require an Act of Congress to waive the time limits.

To read the citations of any of the nation's Recipients of the Medal of Honor, and to access living history videos and additional reference material, see the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's website at www.cmohs.org.



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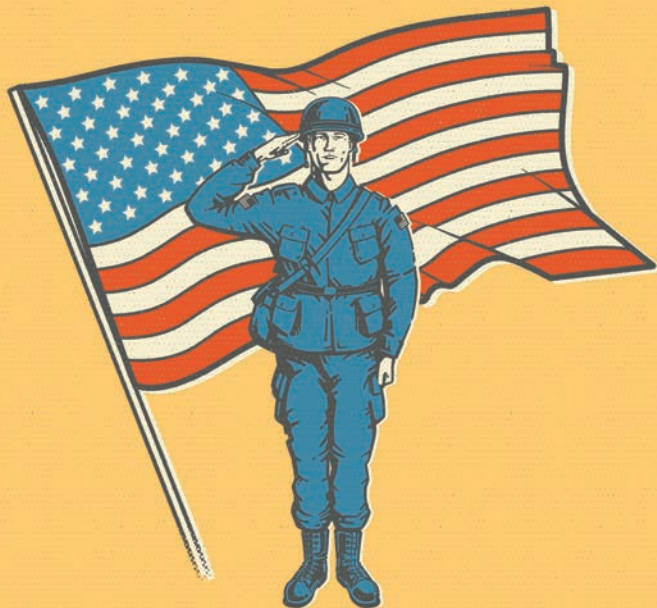
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